



Inside

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BY BIG BOSSMAN**

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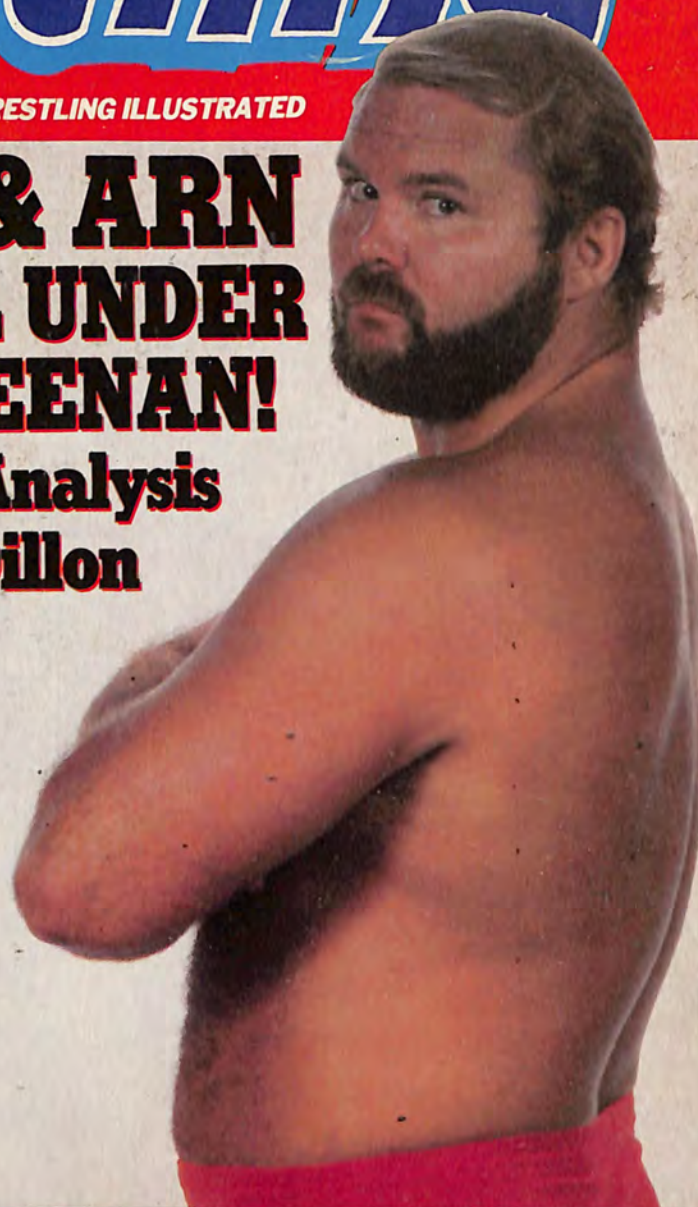
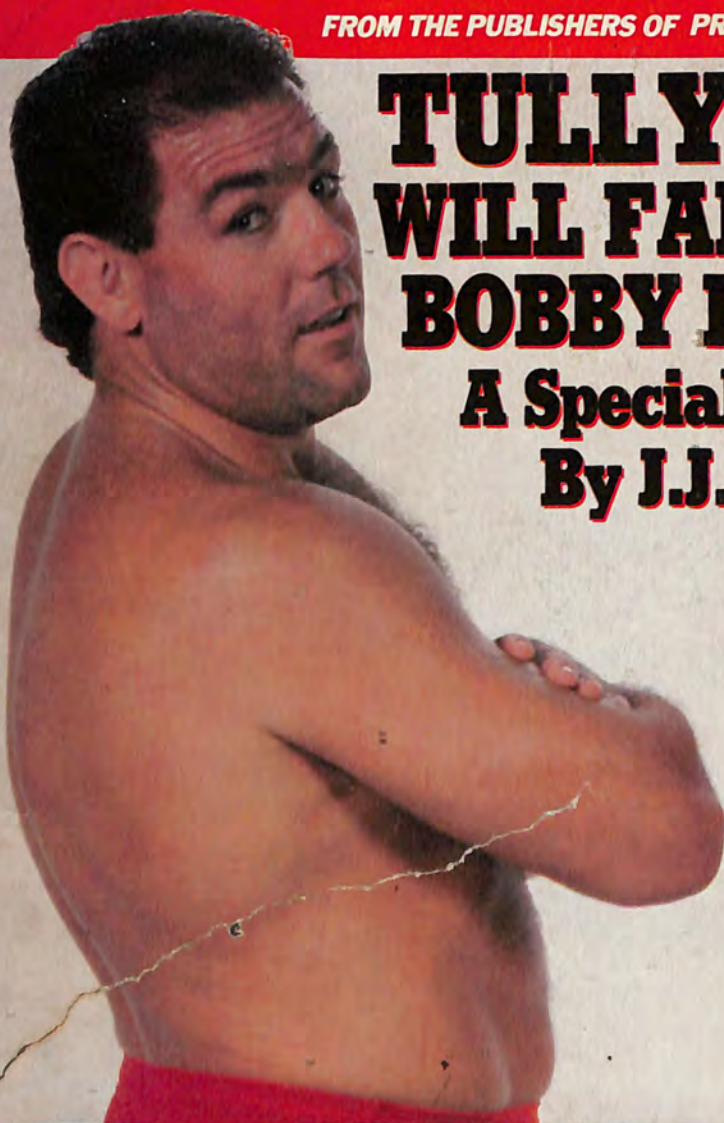


Wrestling

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**A Special Analysis
By J.J. Dillon**



**The Road Warriors' Message
To Barry Windham:
"LEAVE STING ALONE—
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**Jerry Lawler's Warning To
Inside Wrestling:
"IF RONNIE GARVIN WINS MY
AWA TITLE—I'LL SUE YOU!"**

**ONE ON ONE:
JIM CORNETTE VS.
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**SGT. SLAUGHTER:
"I'M BACK TO ANSWER
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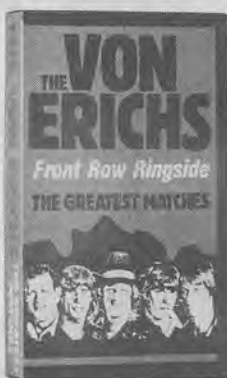
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INSIDE

Wrestling

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Wrestling

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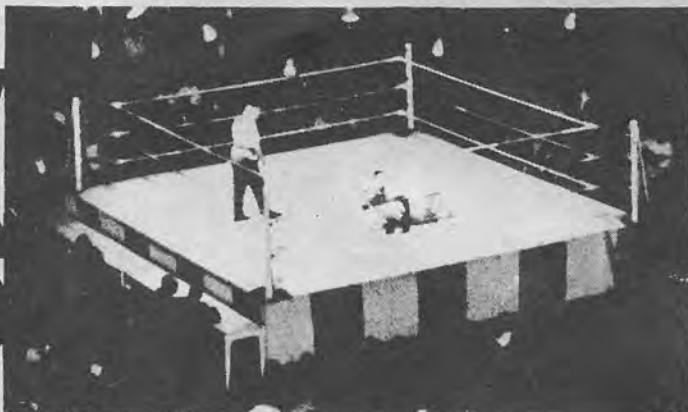
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SINCERELY YOURS

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PIPER FAN BALLOT!

I really enjoyed the "Hotseat" interview with "Rowdy" Roddy Piper in your December 1988 issue. I noticed that his hair has lengthened and he's lost some weight. He's looking better than ever. All in all, your interview was great.



Many fans would like to see "Rowdy" Roddy Piper return to the ring in 1989.

I became disappointed, however, when he kept talking about not returning to the ring. That was the *only* thing that bothered me about the interview. In a future issue, you should publish a fan ballot asking the simple question: "Should Roddy Piper return to wrestling?" I'm sure the response would be overwhelming that he *should* return.

If a lot of fans responded positively, I'm sure Piper would consider returning. After all, wrestling is what he knows best, right?

PHILLIP BRUNO
New York

REMEMBERING THE PAST

As I sit here reminiscing, I fondly remember the good ol' days of UWF wrestling. The UWF used to come to Tulsa two to four times per month. But thanks to the NWA takeover, we're lucky if we see a live show once per year!

It's a shame, because back in 1985 it was the UWF (then known as Mid-South)—not the "we-cater-to-the-yuppie-flash-in-the-pan-wrestling-fans" WWF—that helped me become the devoted fan I am today. I wish there were more federations like the old UWF.

DIANE SEALS
Tulsa, OK

CWA NOT CREDITED

After getting the December 1988 issue of *Inside Wrestling*, I was disap-

pointed to see that the CWA doesn't get that much publicity. Every now and then there will be a story on Jerry "The King" Lawler, the AWA World champion, but other than that—nothing! I think the other fine wrestlers of the CWA deserve more publicity.

Some CWA wrestlers, like Jeff Jarrett, Billy Travis, Shawn Baxter, and Bill "Superstar" Dundee, are bona fide stars. Even Bill Dundee's son, Jamie, should get a little credit for what he does, acting as a bodyguard for his father.

I am a real supporter of the CWA. The wrestlers are good at what they do and deserve more publicity than they have been getting.

DEBBIE HUTCHINSON
Palmyra, TN

NAIVE AND UNINFORMED

Your December 1988 issue featured an incredibly inane letter written by Wendy DeSanto ("Beefcake Finished?"). Ms. DeSanto claimed that the only reason Brutus Beefcake didn't beat The Honky Tonk Man at WrestleMania IV was because of Jimmy Hart's interference. So what? That's part of the game!

DeSanto is obviously not a student of the game if she actually believes that Beefcake is anything but finished in the WWF. He couldn't beat Honky Tonk—a man with less wrestling talent in his whole body than Randy Savage has in his little finger—in over six months of matches, and now he's bogged down in a feud with Ron Bass. This feud threatens to leave Beefcake a



Bill Dundee shoves his sometime-friend, sometime-enemy Jerry Lawler.



The Honky Tonk Man headlocks Brutus Beefcake and taunts a fan at the same time.

sliced-up remnant of his former self.

And for what? There's no title on the line. Why bother? Because Beefcake knows that he isn't good enough to challenge anybody else. He knows there's nowhere else he can go.

Wendy, I hate to disappoint you, but to answer your question: Yes, Beefcake is finished. He was finished when he tried to take on The Honky Tonk Man, and he's finished now.

BENNETT ROMNEY
New Orleans

THE REAL MAN ABOUT TOWN

The one thing I like about Matt Brock is that he really gets around this country! He's always there to cover the lesser-known federations and I really appreciate that.

His column in the December 1988 issue was a good example. First, he went to Vegas to criticize the return of Col. DeBeers. I couldn't agree with him more. That South African sadist has no place in our country, spreading his evil lies about minorities. *That's* not what this country is all about.

Next, he traveled to the CWA area to condemn Robert Fuller and his "Stud Stable" for their racially motivated actions against Brickhouse Brown. Fuller should be banned for such overt racism. Matt acknowledged this and also saw through the racism to reveal that the "Stud Stable" is really just a collection of has-beens.



Col. DeBeers' racist attitude is sharply criticized by Amanda Nelligan.

I think Matt Brock is a credit to your magazine—even if he occasionally behaves a little too much like a surly old man. I wouldn't want to meet him, but I enjoy reading his column every month.

AMANDA NELLIGAN
Los Angeles

BULL!

Your story, "Ric Flair: 'Lex Luger Is Wearing Me Down!'" (December 1988), was full of crap! Imagine someone as talentless and raw as Luger wearing down a champion like Flair! Ha! That's a laugh!

Luger has had more than enough

chances to beat Flair, but he hasn't done it! Why? Because Flair is the finest wrestler and the most crafty ring technician in the history of the game, that's why! No one has been able to beat him, so why should Luger? Flair has always found ways to hold on to his title, and *that's* why he's the greatest.

If Flair admits, in a moment of severe exhaustion, that an opponent gave him a good workout, that only proves that the man still has integrity. But saying that you had a tough match is a long way from saying that you're about to lose your belt (something Flair would neither admit to nor actually do). It's just an impossibility.



Ric Flair chops Lex Luger. John Lombardi doesn't think Luger threatens Flair.

Sure, I commend you for having a story no other magazine could ever have, but I caution your readers not to over-interpret Flair's words. He's still the champion, and will be for years to come. No matter how tired an opponent might make him.

JOHN LOMBARDI
Binghamton, NY

THE OTHER ROCKERS

I'm aiming this letter right at the editors of *Inside Wrestling*. I want you all to know that I wish there were more articles about my favorite tag team, The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs. These guys are great wrestlers, and they deserve your attention.

(Continued on page 48)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

For the first time in over a half a decade, the AWA World champion is rated above the NWA World champion in the Top 10 ratings. The AWA champion happens to be Jerry Lawler, the same man who has threatened to sue Inside Wrestling for printing the story and photos beginning on page 42.

Quite naturally, there are going to be those who feel that we are giving Lawler the number-two spot (behind WWF champ Randy Savage) to appease the angered "King." Let me assure those people that this is not the case. The fact is, the ratings change is based solely on the activities of both men over the 30-day period prior to the day this issue went to press.

Lawler, since winning the AWA World title from the anything-but-perfect Curt Hennig, has greatly expanded the boundaries of his title. He has sought out top wrestlers from various federations (including Savage and Ric Flair, who have not even so much as responded to his challenge) and fared marvelously against them all. His grueling series against Kerry Von Erich has earned him, at least temporarily, both the World Class and AWA titles.

And, yes, as you will learn from the story on page 42, he has done it all with a fractured bone in his left hand.

In all my years of involvement with wrestling, I have never seen anyone who has taken on a more ambitious schedule than Lawler. He has raised the level of the AWA title, while at the same time forcing people who so long considered him merely a big fish in a small pond to recognize him as one of the premier athletes of our time.

Who knows—by the time Lawler takes his battle against Inside Wrestling to the courtroom, he may be number one in the ratings.



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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

WHEN MIKE SCIOSCIA hit a two-run homer off Dwight Gooden in the top of the ninth inning in game four of this year's National League Championship Series—tying the score at 4-4 when the Mets appeared to be on the verge of taking a commanding three games to one lead—my heart sank to the floor.

And I wondered: Is there a similar situation this could be compared to in pro wrestling? Is it possible for a wrestler to be so close to victory, then have it taken away so suddenly? Of course, for the situations to compare, a wrestler would have to be wrestling for a World championship, like Lex Luger was last July 10 in Baltimore.

"You know, I *still* think back on that match," Luger admitted the other night, nearly four months after Ray Ianucci, a Maryland State Athletic Commissioner, stopped Luger's match against NWA World champ Ric Flair because Luger was bleeding from the forehead. Luger had clamped on a painful backbreaker and Flair appeared to be on the verge of submission. When the referee called for the bell, Luger celebrated, thinking he had won.

"They say you can't look back on the past," Luger continued, "but there are times when that's just impossible. A wrestler works very hard to win a world title. When you have it in your grasp, then get it taken away, there's no consolation—and there's no way to get it out of your mind.

"Not, at least, until you actually *win* that title. But it's tough. Because every time I step into the ring against Flair, I'm thinking, 'That belt should be around *my* waist. *He* should be the challeng-

(Continued on page 52)

LOOKING AT THE schedule of magazines slated to hit the newsstands over the next few weeks, I find that the *Inside Wrestling* you're holding in your hands is my last column anywhere before the year-end March 1989 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* goes on sale. With that in mind, it seems like the right time to review some issues and opinions on the state of wrestling in 1988—and look ahead to where the sport may bring us in 1989:

The Hulk Hogan helmet has to be the most ridiculous thing I've seen in my eight years with this magazine. Okay, Hulk likes to rip his T-shirt to shreds and pose after matches and wear bandanas—I understand all that. But there are only two possible functions of the ridiculous helmet: to draw attention, and to use as a weapon. The first reason is sad: With Randy Savage becoming more and more popular, *ex-champion* Hogan becomes more and more bitter (I predict a major Savage-Hogan feud in 1989). The second reason is inexcusable: if Hogan is such a role model—such a *Real American*—why should he have to resort to such blatantly illegal tactics? I look at Hulk Hogan and see that he's traveled a long way from the 1984 model Hulkster who defeated The Iron Sheik for the WWF belt. I don't like where his journey has taken him.

The dissolution of The Four Horsemen is the best news to hit the NWA in a long, long time. Okay, so Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson have left the NWA for the WWF. You think the NWA is going to collapse because of it? I say: "Good riddance!" Tully and Arn were a blight on the NWA, and their constant interference on behalf of Ric Flair has made him a flabby champion, both in physique and style. The NWA World title deserves better, NWA fans deserve better, and without Tully and Arn to save Flair's hide, we're going to find out if Flair can be better than he's been. I think he's got it in him, and I also think we'll see some classic bouts from "The Nature Boy" in '89. But Flair's going to have some rough sledding while he digs deep to find the qualities that made him so admirable a champion six or seven years—and two or three reigns—ago. I say he'll do it, and I say the NWA will be better for it.

The AWA has reached new levels of excitement and interest over the second half of this year, and don't say I didn't warn you. Two months ago in this space I wrote about the AWA and how much is going on there. Since then, even more has been happening, not the least of which is their first foray into the pay-per-view arena. I don't think that SuperClash III will be a financial blockbuster (with so many WWF and NWA cards on the pay-per-view calendar, I don't see how it possibly *can* be). But the very fact that the AWA is combining with World

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

Class, the CWA, and the CWF to put on this show can only be good news for the sport. It marks a new era in inter-federational cooperation, and it means that the AWA is finally beginning to think along the major-league lines of the NWA and the WWF. If they can keep up the momentum, 1989 will be the best year yet for the AWA.

There are three young stars in this sport who, while not rookies, are beginning to reach the peaks of their careers, and they're becoming very exciting to watch:

●Sting challenged Ric Flair throughout 1988, and looks to be one of the top men in line for the NWA belt in 1989. He's only gotten better as a technical wrestler, his charisma is remarkable, and his fearlessness has led him to execute some of the most dangerous and breathtaking aerial maneuvers I've ever seen. The rate at which Sting continues to improve is simply breathtaking.

●The Ultimate Warrior may not be the best technical wrestler in the sport, but he's got more enthusiasm than any half a dozen top stars I can name. I don't think that enthusiasm alone can always win matches, but Ultimate's got power on his side, plus the advantage of wrestling from a champion's status (as opposed to the difficulty of being a contender). If Warrior can learn how to better utilize his power, and if his enthusiasm doesn't blind him to his opponents' skills, he could give The Honky Tonk Man's record-shattering title reign a run for its money.

●Bam Bam Bigelow was one man everybody thought would win the WWF World title. He didn't, but not for lack of trying—trying to get title shots, that is. If Bigelow had been given his deserved chance at the belt, he might be the reigning champion today. But he wasn't, so disgust got the better of him and he left the WWF to go to the NWA. A Bigelow-Flair series? Don't be surprised if it happens. And don't be surprised if the potential that everyone saw for Bigelow in the WWF begins to blossom for him in the NWA.

There's a lot going on in wrestling right now to make the sport interesting. I know, five months ago I was howling about how boring the sport is. But that's the beauty of professional wrestling: Hang in there, pay attention to what's happening, and changes will occur right before your eyes. And before you know it, plenty will come along to surprise and delight you. □



Ultimate Warrior

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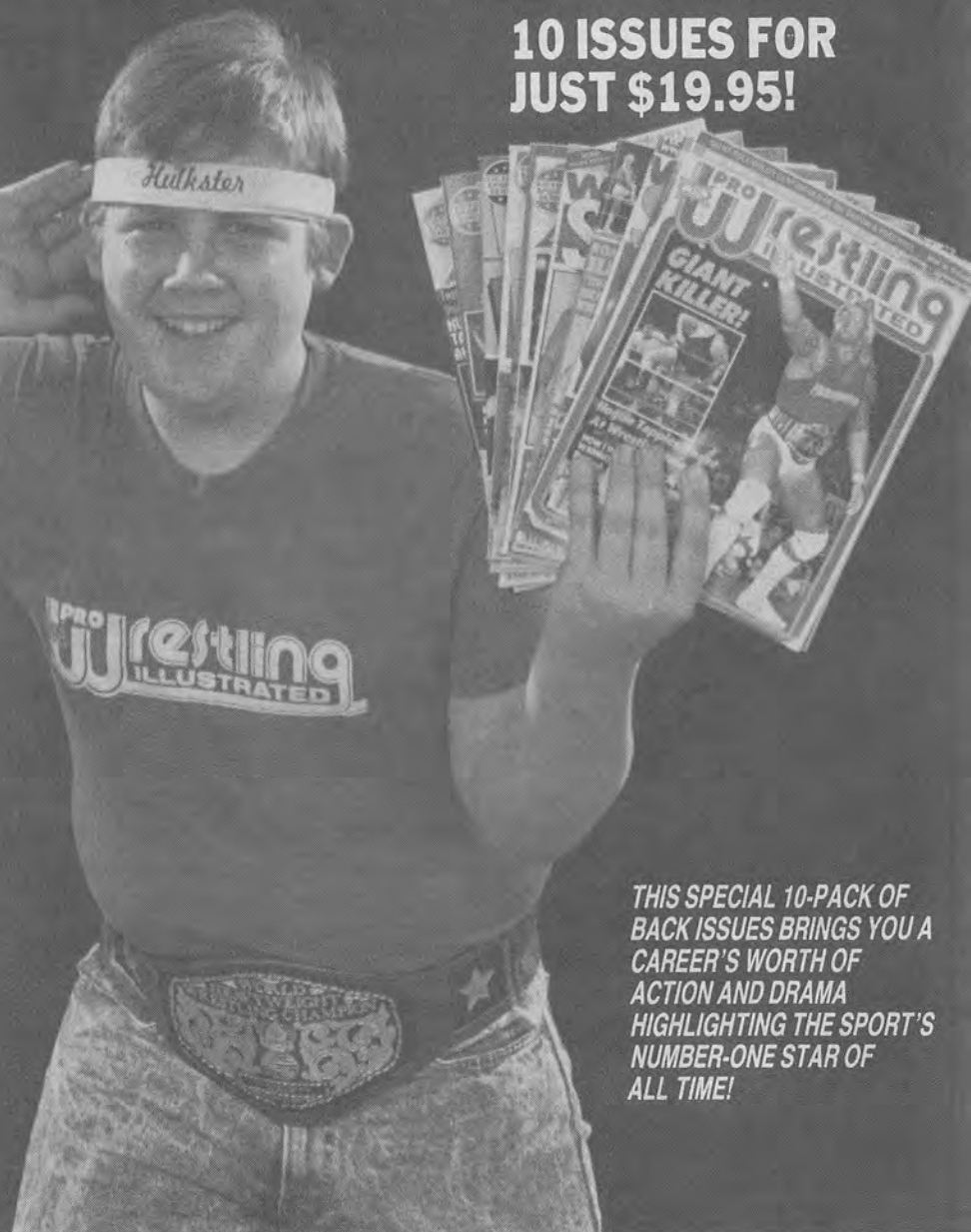
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NAMES MAKI

AFTER FIVE MONTHS of belt vs. belt confrontations, *something* had to give—and it finally did on October 23 when AWA World champion **Jerry Lawler** defeated **Kerry Von Erch** for the World Class championship at the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis. The result of this bout, however, is shrouded in controversy.

Like many of the other matches in this feud, Lawler and Von Erch battled ferociously throughout this intense



JERRY LAWLER

steel cage struggle. After trading the advantage several times, Lawler delivered a crushing piledriver to Von Erch in the center of the ring, then called for gatekeeper **Jeff Jarrett** to open the cage door. Von Erch caught up with the "King" and stopped him with a clawhold, which he kept clamped on Lawler's head for several minutes.

After rendering Lawler unconscious, Von Erch signaled for Jarrett to open the gate. As Von Erch headed for the opening and victory, Jarrett swung the steel gate door *inward*, which crashed into the "Modern-Day Warrior" and

sent him sprawling to the mat. Both men struggled to their feet, but it would be Lawler who would gain enough strength to crawl through the door and win both the match *and* the World Class belt.

"Talk about a home field advantage!" Von Erch screamed angrily after the bout. "This is a clear case of collusion between Jarrett and Lawler. I think Jarrett knew *exactly* what he was doing when he hit me with that door. The officials of the AWA, CWA, and World Class have got to do something about this incredible ripoff. They can't let me lose my belt this way."

Lawler denied there was any controversy concerning the finish of the bout.

"I didn't really see what happened to Kerry because I was recovering from that claw," said the dual champion. "All I know is that I was the one who managed to get through that gate first. It really could have gone either way, but naturally I'm thrilled with the outcome."

At press time, World Class promoters



JEFF JARRETT

were trying to sign Von Erch and Lawler for a rematch, which was tentatively scheduled for November 4 in Dallas. The two will also meet in the main event at SuperClash III, the pay-per-view event slated for December 13 at the U.I.C. Pavilion in Chicago.

What's happened to **Steve "Dr. Death" Williams**? While on tour in Japan, the former University of Oklahoma football star sent a videotape to



STEVE WILLIAMS

NWA officials announcing he had joined **The Varsity Club**, the rule-breaking stable led by **Kevin Sullivan**.

"Forget the Williams you've seen in the past," said a delighted **Mike Rotundo**, a charter Club member. "He's decided to get his career on the right track, and with his new, aggressive attitude, he'll be virtually unstoppable. Besides, we need a third member to keep that nimrod **Rick Steiner** in line."

Cactus Jack Foley and **Gary Young**, members of **Robert Fuller's Stud Stable**, won a tournament to

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

become the new CWA tag team champions on October 23 in Memphis. CWA officials had stripped the previous champions (**The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs**) of the belts after a controversial match against **Todd Morton** and **Bill Dundee** a few days earlier in Lewisburg, Tennessee. Foley and Young used interference by manager **Downtown Bruno** to defeat Morton and Dundee in the tournament final.

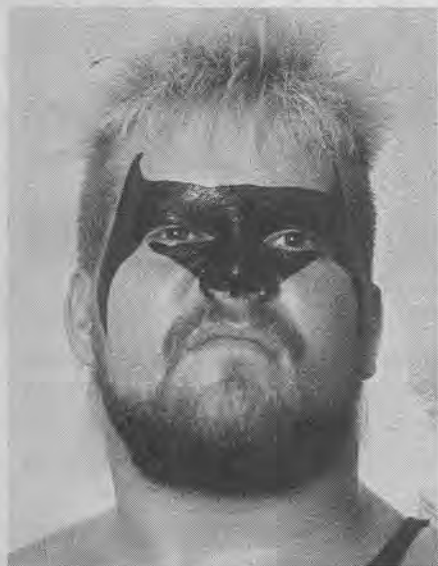
Things are heating up in the Florida Championship Wrestling area. Fans were shocked when rulebreaking FCW tag team champions **Johnny Ace** and **The Terminator** succeeded in hiring **Dick Slater**, the popular FCW cham-

on October 17 in Ft. Worth, Texas. The savage SST also holds the Texas tag team belts.

"Hayes and Cox really ought to think about packing it in," laughed Roberts. "We just keep on beating them over and over again. SuperClash III will be their final match against us—ever. It's time for some new opponents instead of those rock 'n' roll retreads."

"**Luscious**" **Johnny Valiant** has returned to the ring wars. He's been tearing up opponents in the NWF... The huge **Samoan Kokina**, managed by **Alan Martin**, has challenged **Humongous** to a loser-leave-town match in the Continental area... **The Grappler**, who lost his Pacific Northwest title to **Tatsumi Fujinami** on October 15 in Portland, Oregon, is going to follow Fujinami back to Japan on a quest to regain the belt... **Giant Gustav**, currently wrestling in the ICW, has a featured role in *No Holds Barred*, the recently completed motion picture starring **Hulk Hogan**. The film is slated for a spring release.

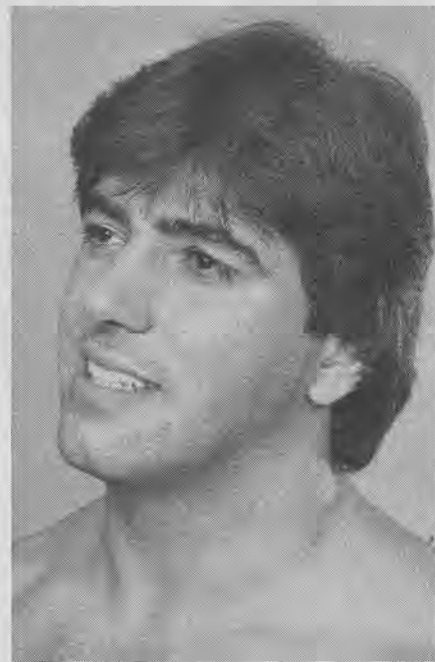
Abdullah the Butcher is back in the NWA! He's been reunited with manager **Gary Hart**, who guided the



THE TERMINATOR

pion, as a bounty hunter! Ace and Terminator want Slater to rid the area of **U.S. Steel**, a 6'9", 407-pound contender. Also, **Mark Starr** has turned against **Dustin Rhodes**, his regular tag team partner. Starr has formed a new tag team with rulebreaker **Jim Backlund**.

The Samoan Swat Team, managed by **Buddy Roberts**, defeated **Steve Cox** and **Michael Hayes** to regain the World Class tag team title



RICK MARTEL

Sudanese madman when he wrestled in the World Class area during 1986 and 1987. This is bad news for **Dusty Rhodes**, who feuded violently with Abdullah in Florida several years ago... Is **Strike Force** set to make a comeback? Rumors are flying that **Rick Martel** may soon return to action. The Canadian star has been out of wrestling since June 1, when he was severely injured during an outside-the-ring double-team by **Demolition** in Oakland, California. **Ax** and **Smash** defeated Martel and partner **Tito Santana** for the WWF World tag team title at WrestleMania IV on March 27.

On a sad note, **Tom Thumb**, a midget grappler who was active from 1978 to 1983, died on October 16 as the result of an auto accident. The car he was operating skidded off a rain-soaked bridge near Libau, Manitoba, Canada. The popular star also wrestled under the name of **Tiny Tom**. He was 27 years old.

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches! □



ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner



Dusty Rhodes stands between The Road Warriors and Paul Ellering. Much to Eddie Ellner's—and a certain fan club's—delight, this scene will no longer be repeated; the Warriors are back to their old ways.

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

COLUMNIST'S NOTE: WITH a pasting that brought blood to Sting's face and tears to my eyes, The Road Warriors shucked the good-guy image that threatened to ruin them and re-embraced their rulebreaking roots. Here's what it meant to one group of guys.

"Ahhhhhhhhh!"

The longest sigh in wrestling history was also the most ironic. As Hawk and Animal ground their

tag team partner Sting into a human ash heap, thus signaling their return as rulebreakers, the members of the Doomsayers Fan Club issued a long groan of relief.

"Good things come to those who wait," enthused club president Scott Lund. "A lot of people lost hope after the Warriors befriended Dusty Rhodes. But we knew they'd eventually come to their senses. They had to return to the old ways."

The "we" included 24 fans who formed the nucleus of the Doomsayers five years ago and have faithfully tracked The Legion of Doom ever since. The irony was that 50 feet away in a private dressing room, Hawk and Animal were busy establishing a new

platform. Asked how their sudden betrayal of the popular Sting would affect their standing with the fans, the Warriors issued a shocking statement:

"The fans can go to hell!" they cried simultaneously.

Reporters clamored for more. "What do you mean the fans can go to hell?" a hack reporter asked Paul Ellering. "How can they say that?"

The manicured manager glared with open contempt. "It means," he spat, "that the fans can go to hell. And so can the damned media."

The good news reached the Doomsayers outside the arena prompting a loud cheer. Lund ex-

(Continued on page 56)



THE Wrestler

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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

MONDAY MORNING, 8:30 a.m. A delivery truck pulls into the driveway of Baby Rentals, a sprawling furniture store off Hallandale Beach Boulevard. Before the truck brakes, a muscled young man leaps from it, effortlessly hauling two huge crates to a warehouse loading dock. He drops the crates off and leaps back into the truck, barking instructions to people all over the lot. As cold weather directs families in need of baby furniture to this south Florida community, Baby Rentals will enjoy a thriving business. At age 28, Steve Collins, who owns the business with his mother, is the envy of the local community. Handsome, affluent, personable, and extremely well-built, Steve appears to have unlocked the secrets of success at an age when most young men are committing their first mistakes.

Then why isn't Steve Collins smiling?

Monday evening, 9 p.m. A crowd of 1,500 people wait impatiently for the main event, a belt vs. belt encounter. Flanked by two women whose pulchritude help define the specie, Global Wrestling Alliance junior heavyweight champion Steve "Party Animal" Collins emerges from the dressing room. The arena erupts into cheers and a loud chorus of "Party! Party!" Collins acknowledges the cheers and confronts his opponent, World Class light heavyweight champion Eric Embry.

Embry, a veteran with the mean streak of a hungry pit bull, glares across the ring as Collins'



Steve "Party Animal" Collins, the Global Wrestling Alliance junior heavyweight champion, has excellent taste in women. In addition to wrestling, Collins runs a baby furniture business with his mother.

two leggy companions take his robe and championship belt. The match will be an exciting affair, with both men having—and wasting—ample opportunities for vic-

tory. Collins will emerge the winner by disqualification, a decision that leaves the crowd disappointed. The match earned Collins

(Continued on page 60)

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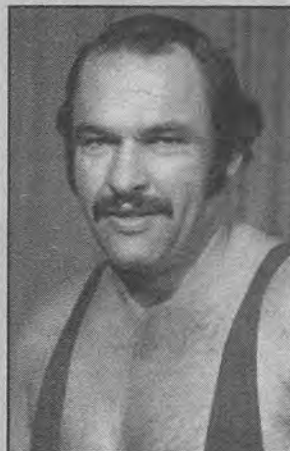
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



D.I. BOB CARTER

Claiming to suffer from battle fatigue, Carter has decided to temporarily go AWOL from wrestling to enter a business career. The former CWF rule-breaker insists that his retirement will be brief, and that he will come back to wrestling "after some R

and R." Carter is currently working as the northwest sales distributor for Genesis Nutrition/Everyday U.S.A., a top manufacturer of vitamins and other health-related products.



TOMMY GILBERT

The Memphis-based former wrestler, referee, and promoter is currently working on a book about his lengthy grappling career. "I've received offers from several publishers about this project," reported Gilbert, who recently feuded with Phil Hickerson.

"My life story would make an incredible book." Tommy is the father of rookie sensation Doug Gilbert, as well as Eddie "Hot Stuff" Gilbert, currently competing in the NWA.



DICK THE BRUISER

"I am not retired!" screamed the man who was known as "The World's Most Dangerous Wrestler" during the '50s and '60s. Amazingly, Bruiser wrestles three or four times each week for the World Wrestling Association

in the Midwest. Bruiser is currently feuding with The Golden Lion and The Wild Polynesian, both savage rulebreakers. "As long as the fans need me, I'll always be ready for action," he reported.



BABY DOLL

The former valet to Gino Hernandez, Larry Zbyszko, Tully Blanchard, Ric Flair, and Dusty Rhodes is currently negotiating with the NWA and with several independent organizations regarding her status as a manager and valet.

"I've got a protege who's going to be a major star," she said from her training headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina. While awaiting her return, Baby Doll is enjoying married life with WWF star Sam Houston.

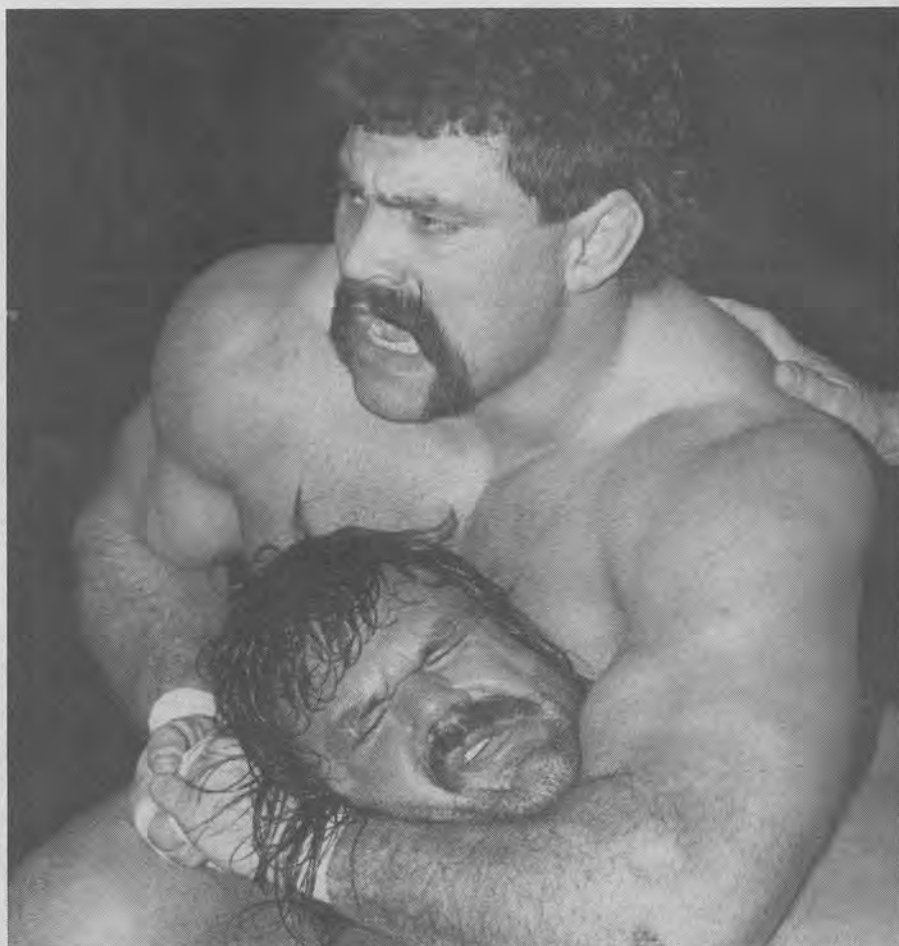
INSIDE WRESTLING

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CAPSULE PROFILE

THIS OFTEN CONFUSED member of The Varsity Club was an all-America wrestler at the University of Michigan in 1983 ("I was a real, real, real good wrestler in college, man") ... Amateur skills, combined with a powerhouse physique, make him a tough opponent for anyone ("Everybody who's smart is afraid of me") ... Made his professional debut in 1985 ("It don't matter if I won or lost, it's none of your business") ... Wrestled in Montreal early in his career ("Canada was okay, but I like to wrestle here better") ... Traveled to the UWF ("That's where all the competition was") ... He and Buzz Sawyer reached the second round of the 1986 Crockett Cup tag team tournament, losing to Magnum T.A. and Ronnie Garvin ("Buzz, buzz, buzz, like a bee he was") ... At the end of 1986, Eddie Gilbert became Steiner's manager and teamed him with Sting ("They should call him Stink, he's so bad!") ... They won the UWF tag team title from Chris Adams and Terry Taylor on April 2, 1987 ("We were a team that made a lot of people scared") ... Lost the belts to Brad Armstrong and Tim Horner a month later ("It was all Sting's fault, not mine; I always know what I'm doing") ... Soon after, Steiner split with Sting, but stayed with Gilbert ("Eddie is smart sometimes, but

RICK STEINER

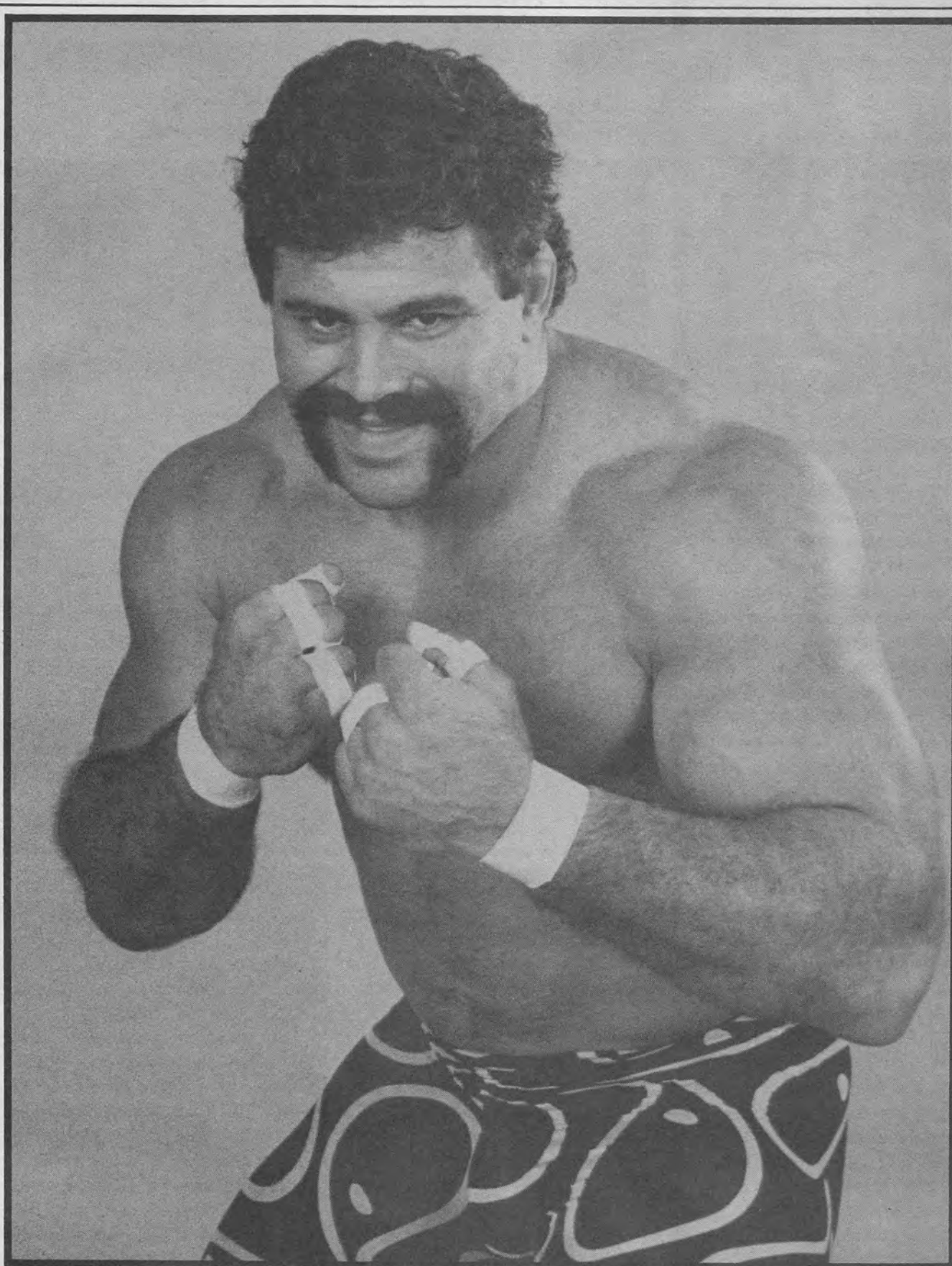


Rick Steiner chinlocks Steve Williams. Steiner is receiving little attention from his mentor, Kevin Sullivan, and Varsity Club partner Mike Rotundo, yet he remains loyal to Sullivan. Steiner likes to needle Rotundo, much to Sullivan's dismay.

sometimes he doesn't think too good") ... Later left Gilbert and joined the NWA as a singles wrestler ("I could do things on my own, usually") ... Kevin Sullivan noticed him and decided he needed some career guidance, so he recruited him for The Varsity Club ("Kevin saved my career; he's a genius") ... Steiner's partner Mike Rotundo gave him his Florida title to defend for him ("He trusted me because he knew I wouldn't lose") ... Team advanced to the quarterfinals of the 1988 Crockett Cup, where they lost to The Fantastics ("Mike got pinned, not me") ... Team started bickering and arguing before and after almost every match ("I'm better than Mike and I

always will be. Go Michigan! Boo Syracuse!") ... Rotundo calls Steiner "dogfaced gremlin" ("Yeah, and I call him a pinhead. Nyah!") ... At times, he also defends Rotundo's TV title ("That proves I'm greater than Mike") ... Sullivan and Rotundo clearly treat Steiner as the inferior member of the team ("That's not true, they love me; they're just jealous") ... Steiner is likely to meet his old manager Gilbert in the ring because Gilbert wants a shot at The Varsity Club for what they did to Jim Garvin ("He taught me too much, that's why he's gonna lose") ... Rumors of a split between Steiner and Rotundo persist ("I don't know about that, you have to ask Kevin"). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



RICK STEINER

SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

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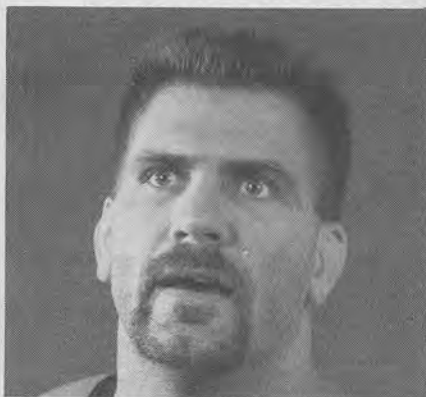
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NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

CHARLESTON, SC By Keith Tribbett



**NIKITA KOLOFF
vs.
RUSSIAN ASSASSIN I**



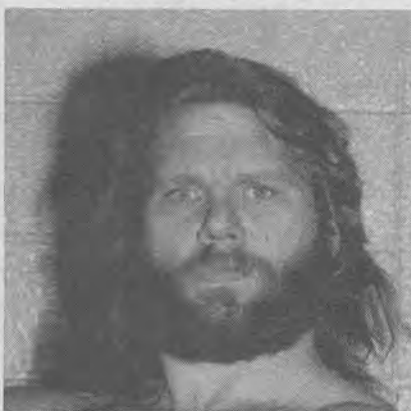
This was a grudge match between the two big Russians. Nikita took control early with armlocks, dropkicks, and biel throws. The Assassin came back kicking and stomping Nikita. As the fans chanted for him, Nikita rallied and hit the Assassin with an elbow and a sickle. Paul Jones and Russian Assassin II, watching from ringside, attacked Nikita, but Ivan Koloff came to his nephew's aid.

OTHER BOUTS: Lex Luger & Sting beat Ric Flair & Barry Windham by DQ ... The Fantastics defeated The Varsity Club ... The Road Warriors beat The Midnight Express ... Steve Williams pinned Rip Morgan ... The Shepherders downed Italian Stallion & Curtis Thompson.

LEXINGTON, KY By Chris Adams



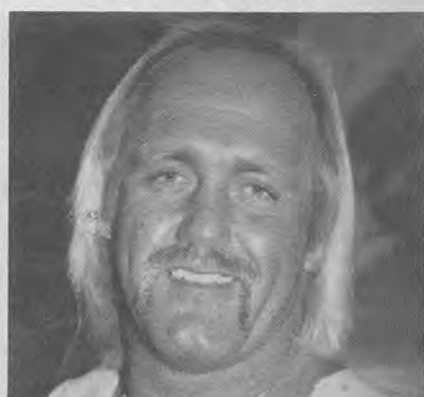
**ANDRE THE GIANT
vs.
HACKSAW DUGGAN**



Andre took control of the match early, wrapping his huge hands around Duggan's throat and refusing to release until the referee was about to disqualify him. Then the Giant clamped a bearhug on Duggan, who managed to break the hold and shoulderblock Andre five times before knocking him off his feet. Duggan tried another shoulderblock, but Andre caught him with a foot to the face. The Giant then fell on Duggan for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Brutus Beefcake defeated Ron Bass ... The Powers of Pain defeated The Bolsheviks ... Jim Brunzell beat Danny Davis ... Tito Santana and Dino Bravo were both disqualified.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA By Scott Wilde



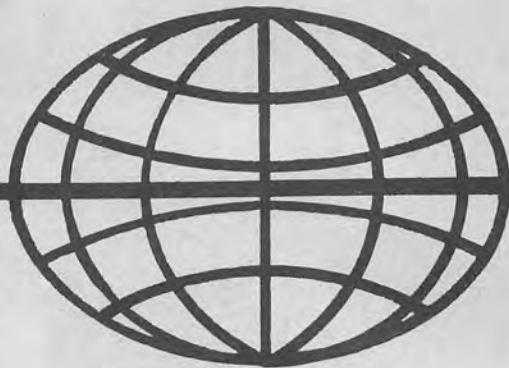
**HULK HOGAN
vs.
BIG BOSSMAN**



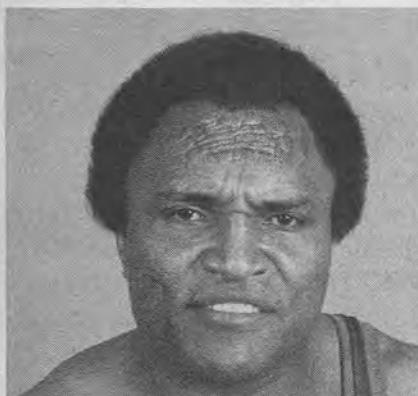
The Bossman worked over Hogan for several minutes until clamping on a bearhug. Then "The Hulkster" elbows mashed his opponent in the head several times, but got caught in the Bossman's belly-to-belly suplex. Bossman went for the pin, but Hulk kicked out, then clotheslined and slammed Bossman. Bossman tried to handcuff Hogan to the ropes, but got tied up himself. Then Hogan clotheslined Bossman over the top rope, and Hogan won by countout.

OTHER BOUTS: Jake Roberts pinned Rick Rude ... Brutus Beefcake pinned Ron Bass ... The Rockers defeated The Conquistadors ... Curt Hennig beat Sam Houston ... Terry Taylor defeated Jim Brunzell ... Jim Powers downed Sandy Beach.

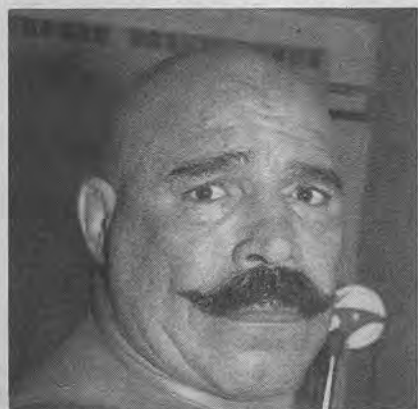
WRESTLING CAPITALS



BAYAMON, PUERTO RICO By Iser Koricki



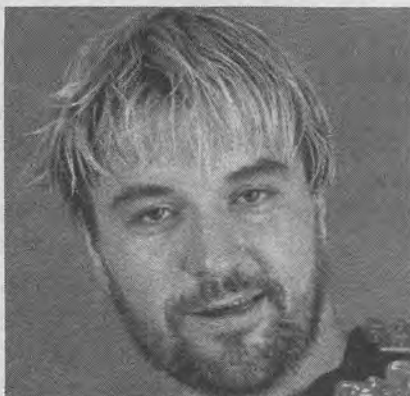
CARLOS COLON
vs.
THE IRON SHEIK



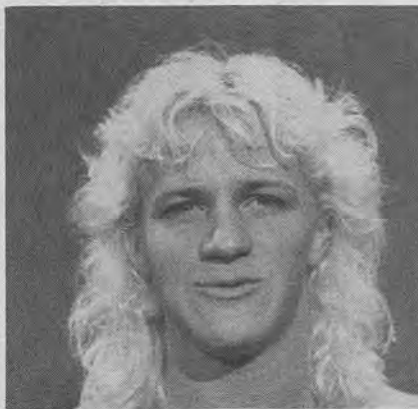
This was a superb match between two legendary stars. They both wrestled at their best, exchanging moves and counter-moves with expert precision. Along the way, they also exchanged a lot of insults. It was the Sheik who eventually made the first costly mistake in the bout, miscalculating a maneuver that saw Colon gain an immediate advantage. Colon, crafty veteran that he is, took full advantage of Sheik's misfortune and scored a quick pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Ronnie Garvin beat Bob Orton by DQ ... TNT and Terry Funk were both disqualified ... Chris Adams battled to a time-limit draw with Samoan Afa.

DALLAS, TX By Roger Del Guidice



ERIC EMBRY
vs.
JEFF JARRETT



Embry was defending his World Class light heavyweight title against the challenger from Memphis. Both men were determined to wrestle a clean scientific match. After Embry escaped several pin attempts, Jarrett was finally able to win with a small package. After the match, Embry extended his hand and the two congratulated each other on a great match.

OTHER BOUTS: Steve Casey defeated Tug Taylor ... Chigusa Nagoyo beat Candi Devine ... Iceman Parsons and Kendall Windham were both disqualified ... Kevin Von Erich defeated Brian Adias by disqualification ... Michael Hayes & Steve Cox beat The Samoan Swat Team ... The Beast and Terry Gordy wrestled to a double-DQ.

ATLANTA, GA By Wanda Jones



DUSTY RHODES
vs.
KEVIN SULLIVAN



In this dog collar chain match, Dusty had Dick Murdoch in his corner and Gary Hart was in Sullivan's corner. From the beginning it was clear that "The American Dream" would dominate the match, and he did. Dusty beat "The Gamesmaster" to such a bloody pulp that not even The Varsity Club could save him. After Dusty ran Sullivan's head into a chair, he scored the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Lex Luger defeated Ric Flair by DQ ... Sting beat Barry Windham by DQ ... The Midnight Express defeated The Fantastics ... Russian Assassin II pinned Ivan Koloff ... Dick Murdoch pinned Larry Zbyszko ... Mike Rotundo, Rick Steiner, & Al Perez beat Steve Williams, Nikita Koloff, & Italian Stallion.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

GREENSBORO, NC: Everybody's talking about The Road Warriors and, if you ask me, I can't believe people think they've changed. Animal and Hawk are the same tough, streetwise guys they've always been, with one difference: They don't want friends anymore. Who can blame them? With Dusty Rhodes and Sting at their side, the Warriors were



THE ROAD WARRIORS

going nowhere. They wasted their time at The Great American Bash helping Jimmy Garvin save Precious (who shouldn't have been anywhere near the ring in the first place) when they should've been fighting Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for the NWA World tag team belts. Maybe now that they're acting a little meaner—and that's saying something—they'll get the respect they deserve. This is the greatest tag team I've ever seen, bar none, and those tag belts belong around their waists.

MEMPHIS, TN: Let me tell you something about Jerry Lawler: The man has Class, and that capital

"C" is no typesetting error. If it's not enough that Lawler's been putting the AWA World title on the line against champions from other federations, he went one step further this past October by defending the belt against International Wrestling Grand Prix champ Tatsumi Fujinami. This was far beyond the call of duty, but Lawler is concerned about only one thing: increasing the value of the belt he so proudly wears. Lawler, of course, turned it up a notch and



JERRY LAWLER

held off Fujinami—there's no way he's going to lose that title before his scheduled December 13 match against World Class champ Kerry Von Erich—and

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

earned the respect of fans, reporters, and wrestlers around the world. Fujinami, if you don't already know, is a Japanese wrestler who rarely competes in this country. But he received permission from IWGP officials to tour the World Class, Memphis, and AWA areas with his title on the line. Fujinami, of course, also deserves a heck of a lot of credit for doing this tour. American fans know little about Japanese wrestling; believe me, you don't want to go to Japan to find out about it. As for Lawler, well, something tells me that this gutsy veteran would go to the North Pole to wrestle a challenger. He might get out of hand once in a while, but "The King" is giving this sport a good name.

NORFOLK, VA: Now there's talk that Rick Steamboat is going to return to the NWA for one match to meet NWA World champion Ric Flair at Starrcade '88 (that's December 26 right here in Norfolk, by the way), which is definitely something to get excited about. Flair and Steamboat had some great matches in the early and mid-1980s, but never really settled matters. Then Steamboat took off for



RICK STEAMBOAT

the WWF, where he won the Intercontinental title. But the Steamboat-Flair feud was never forgotten. If you ask me, Flair is a lesser wrestler since Steamboat left. Steamboat was one of the few guys who could match Flair on scientific wrestling ability, forcing the champ to take his game to an even higher level. Steamboat, meanwhile, was probably hurt by his move to the WWF, even though he became more famous than he was before. The quality of wrestling

just isn't all that high in the WWF, and even Randy Savage was too busy trying to *kill* Steamboat instead of actually *wrestling* him. I think Steamboat got bored, and that's why he retired. The only thing that can bring him back is a match against Flair. He's always wanted a world title, something that has somehow (I don't know how) eluded him. Put him in the ring against Flair, and "The Dragon" would breathe fire once again. Steamboat-Flair would finish off this awful year on a good note. Let's hope the match is signed.

NEW YORK, NY: The other day I heard someone at the Garden say, "Matt Brock is to wrestling what Ben Greene is to boxing," but before I had a chance to ask the guy what he meant, he had flushed the toilet and walked away. Anyway, I couldn't figure out whether the guy was complimenting me or putting me down, so I dropped by the *Inside Wrestling* offices the next day and spoke to Assistant Editor Steve Farhood, who doubles as senior writer of *KO* boxing magazine. "You and Ben are the last of a dying breed," Farhood told me, and I *still* wasn't sure if it was a compliment. "Dick Young, Red Smith, Jimmy Cannon, they're all gone, but you and Ben are still around. Ben has probably known more fighters and covered more fights than any writer around. I think that's the same thing they say about you, too, isn't it?" That is what it says right at the top of this page: "Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist." Farhood then pulled out a copy of an old boxing magazine and showed me a story about Greene. Apparently, this Greene character is rather colorful. He smokes a cigar, drinks a lot, lives in a Times Square hotel, and calls people "bub." I never call *anyone* "bub." But Ben also uses some phrases I wouldn't be caught dead using: "Strike me pink if I don't think" and "Fight Beat Talkee-Talkee." And he refers to his anonymous sources as "Newsy Ike." Well, I don't go for that flowery language, and I don't use anonymous sources. Then I heard something I *did* like about Greene. "He still uses an old manual typewriter," Farhood said. "When you two are gone, computers will finally rule the newsroom." I guess Greene and I *are* the old guard. □

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Go With The Leader—The Best Keeps Getting Better!

Jerry Lawler's Warning To *Inside Wrestling*:

"IF RONNIE GARVIN WINS MY AWA TITLE—I'LL SUE YOU!"



When he injured his left hand in a recent softball game, Jerry Lawler didn't want anyone—especially his opponents—to know. A foe could capitalize on the injured hand and score an easy win. The extent of the injury has been Lawler's best-kept secret—until now!

CLAIMING THAT THE story you are now reading will cause him to lose the AWA World title, Jerry Lawler has threatened to sue *Inside Wrestling* for breaking a promise of journalistic restraint. Until the publication of these revealing photos, the details of Lawler's hand injury were unknown to fans and opponents, a deception Lawler had hoped to continue.

On a recent trip to Memphis, *Inside Wrestling* Senior Editor Bill Apter was let in on "The King's" secret.

"You're just in time, buddy," Lawler told Apter. "I was headed to the doctor's office. Bring your camera."

Apter tagged along, always relishing the opportunity to photograph a wrestler outside the ring. But when Apter took the photos on these pages, he never expected that they would be printed in an international publication.

Neither did Lawler.

"Bill," the AWA champion said during the medical examination, "I've known you for a long time, and the fact that I have to say this embarrasses me. But you have to make sure that these photos never get printed. You know that if any of my competitors found out the extent of my injury, it could have severe ramifications. I might even

lose the World title!"

"Come on, Jerry," Apter replied, "you know me better than that. We don't want to print these now. But if we ever print a career retrospective after you retire, we'll use these photos to show what a great competitor you were, that you could even wrestle with a broken hand. Don't worry."

Lawler trusted his old friend with the secret, relaxing as Apter's camera continued clicking.

Since injuring the hand while playing first base during a softball game at Memphis' Rodney Baber field, Lawler has had to rely on such promises of secrecy. The AWA World champion can't allow his opponents to find out that the power of his famed fistdrop might be largely neutralized by an injury.

In fact, in a match against Kerry Von Erich just one day after breaking his hand, Lawler opted to throw a sucker-punch before the match began rather than risk further injury. In later matches, Lawler has favored his left hand and even hidden the hand with the cast under a black glove.

After the examination, Apter said goodbye to his friend, sent the film to our offices, and continued his travels through the south. When Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks saw the photos two days later, he phoned Apter in Atlanta to congratulate him.

"Great job, Bill," Saks said. "You really came up with quite a scoop here. No one else will have these photos!"

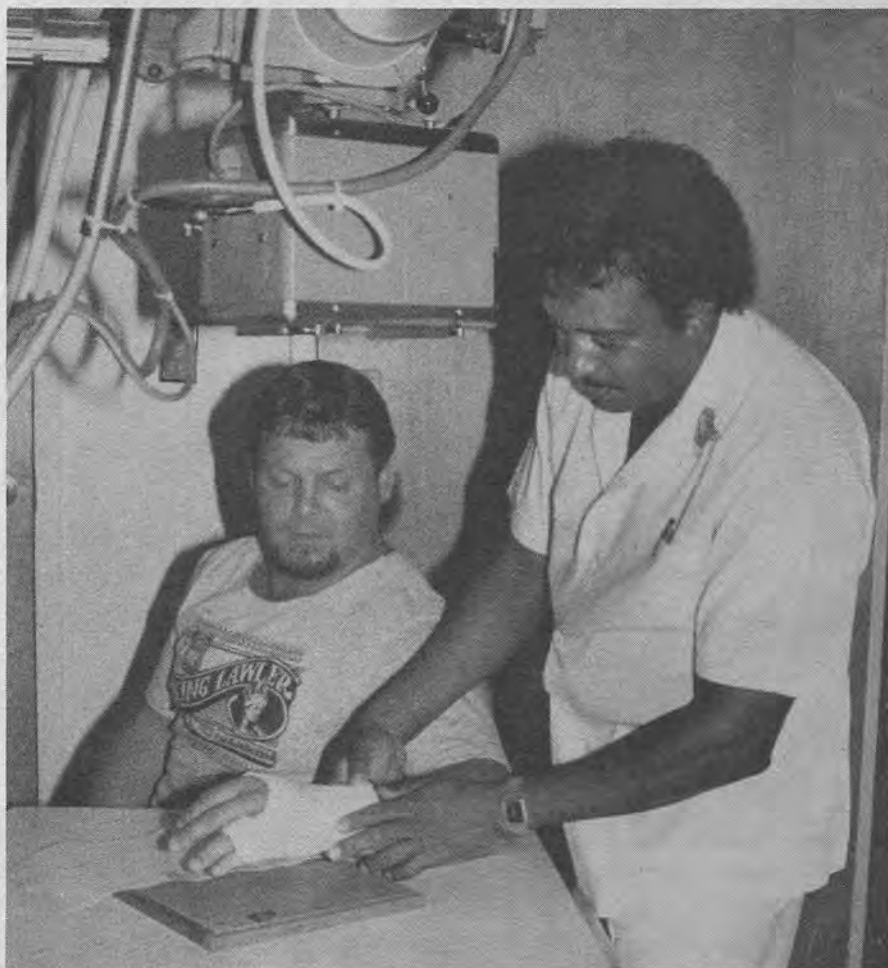
"Wait a minute, Stu," Apter said, "we can't use those photos. I promised Lawler we wouldn't."

"What do you mean, you promised?" Saks howled. "You can't make a promise like that! This is journalism! We have a responsibility to our readers! The contents page of every issue says that *Inside Wrestling* is 'the magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling,' and we have to live up to that!"

Apter, overruled by Saks, felt ob-



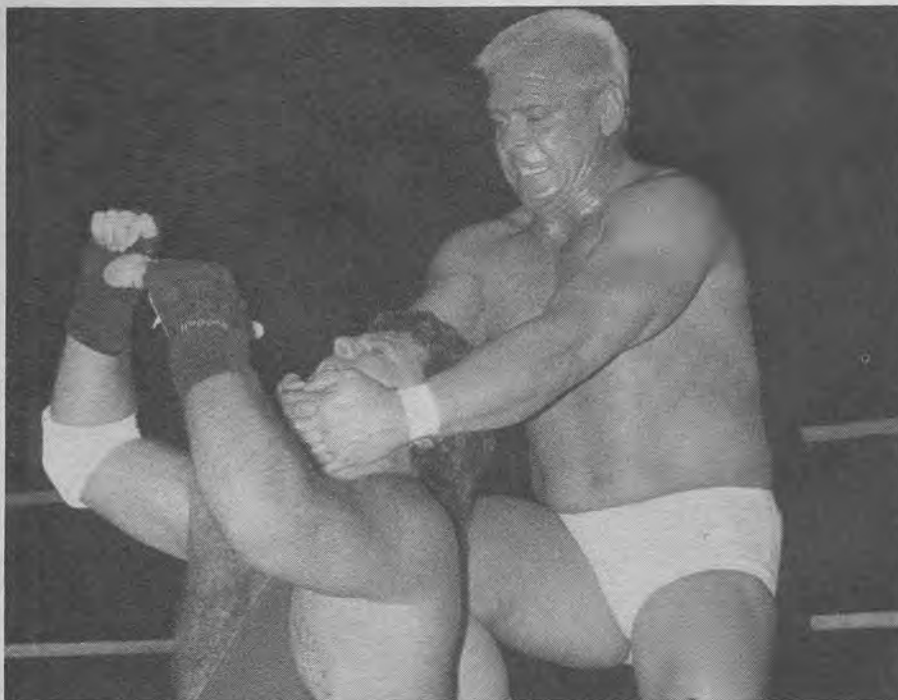
Jerry Lawler's doctor examines an X-ray of "The King's" injured left hand (above). The hand is set in a cast (below). Lawler is afraid his opponents will capitalize on the injury.



ligated to telephone Lawler to inform him of Saks' decision. Although Lawler received Apter's phone call with a king's kindness, his pleasure quickly turned to

anger.

"You lied to me, Bill! Do you realize that I might lose the title because of this? I've just signed for a series of matches with Ronnie



Ronnie Garvin chinlocks Lawler (above). "The King" chops Garvin in the head (below). Lawler has threatened to sue *Inside Wrestling* over publication of this story.



Garvin! That man relies on his fists, and if he knows that I can't rely on mine—! If Garvin wins my AWA title from me, I'll sue you!"

Lawler hung up on his friend,

but he had a point. If an opponent—especially one as crafty and experienced as Ronnie Garvin—learned of Lawler's injury, that opponent would have a marked ad-

vantage. He would be able to anticipate Lawler's every move. He would be able to prepare strategies of his own to exploit Lawler's weakness. Most of all, he would gain an all-important psychological edge over the champion.

Two days later, we received a letter from "The King's" lawyers reading, in part:

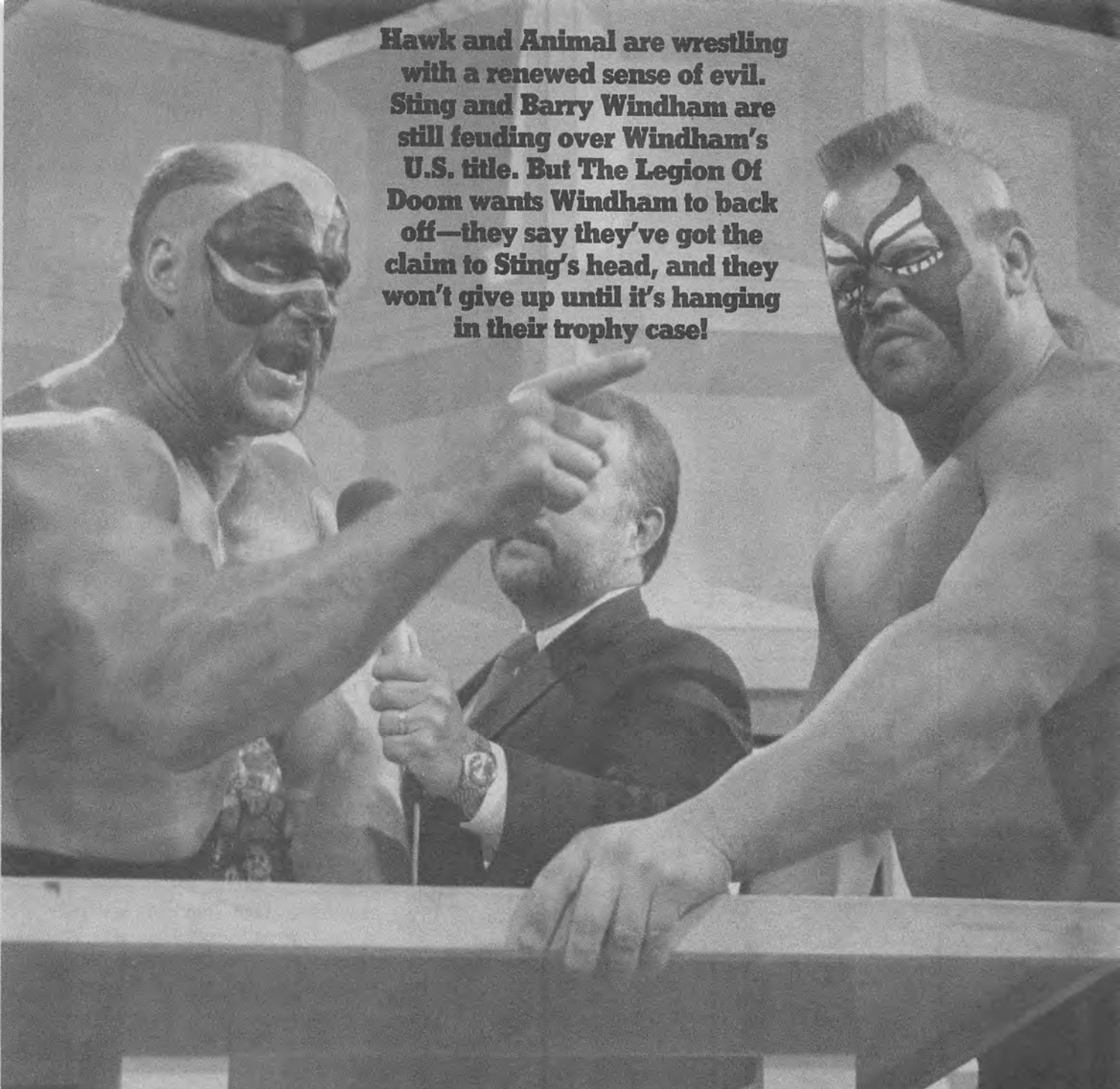
This is to advise you that, as counsel to Mr. Lawler, we are reserving the right to initiate legal action against your company should our client lose the means of his financial and personal successes, namely the AWA World title, as the result of your publication of medical information pertaining to Mr. Lawler's health. You have violated a verbal contract with Mr. Lawler and are legally at fault.

Concerned about the letter, Saks called our lawyers.

"Lawler's counsel is maintaining a sadly outdated position," our attorney told us. "Legal precedents in these cases demand—not merely allow, but *demand*—that these photos be published. The verbal agreement is not binding, of course, but the bigger issue is that the freedom of the press is unimpeachable. That freedom, secured in the landmark case *New York vs. Zenger* (1735), must be constantly maintained. If *Inside Wrestling* balks at publishing these photos, it will send a chilly message throughout the world of journalism, a message no publication can afford to send. Lawler has no case."

Despite the legal advice, Apter remained uncomfortable with Saks' decision to print the photos. "*Inside Wrestling* has a level of integrity to maintain, Bill," Saks said. "Lawler will understand. Besides, if he's such a great champion, he'll be able to win despite his injuries. He's done it before and he'll do it again."

Apter shook his head and walked away. He might have lost a friend, but Lawler stands to lose a lot more than that. □



Hawk and Animal are wrestling with a renewed sense of evil. Sting and Barry Windham are still feuding over Windham's U.S. title. But The Legion Of Doom wants Windham to back off—they say they've got the claim to Sting's head, and they won't give up until it's hanging in their trophy case!

The Road Warriors' Message To Barry Windham:

"LEAVE STING ALONE—HE'S OURS TO CRIPPLE!"



YOU SAY THE Road Warriors are no longer concerned about the health and welfare of their fellow wrestlers? That they lost any sense of compassion after their recent attack on Sting and declaration of war on the entire wrestling community?

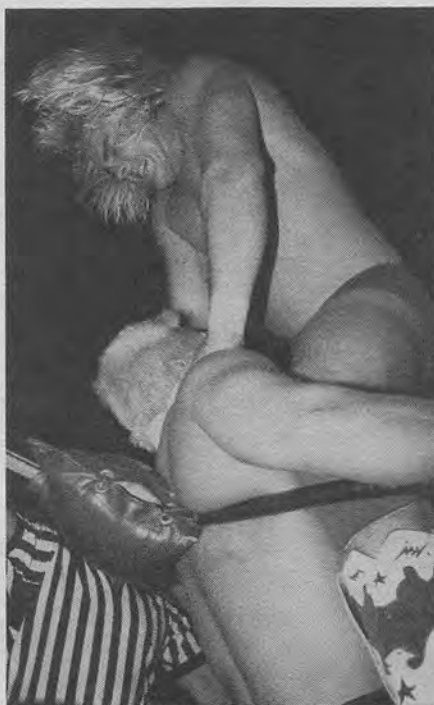
Well, upon hearing that the match between U.S. champion Barry Windham and challenger Sting proceeded as planned—despite the neck injuries they inflicted on Sting—the Warriors issued statements brimming in heartfelt compassion.

"I hope Windham didn't hurt Sting," said a concerned Animal. "He must be careful. He is really in no condition to wrestle."

His teammate was more liberal with his tongue.

"If Windham added to Sting's pain and discomfort, I will personally take it out of his hide," barked an enraged Hawk. "The Legion of Doom will not tolerate anyone laying a hand on Sting."

Hawk paused momentarily to allow



Barry Windham's control over Sting (top and above) is something The Road Warriors did not want to see.

the full weight of his message to penetrate. Then, eyes ablaze, he continued. "The only people licensed to annihilate Sting, the only wrestlers permitted to

crack his bones and scar his face, the only wrestlers able to end his career are *Hawk and Animal*! This is a message to the Windham and to Ric Flair and to anyone else who wants a piece of Sting: He's ours to cripple! Mess with him, and you mess with us."

"And besides," manager Paul Ellering added, "those who want to see Sting hospitalized should kick back and relax. Hawk and Animal are about to do it free of charge."

Ladies and gentlemen, permit us to re-introduce The Legion of Doom.

If memories of The Road Warriors' first campaign—when they elevated brutality to levels never before seen in war zones, much less wrestling rings—still have you recoiling in horror, then you may want to move on to the next story. Because 1988's incarnation of The Legion of Doom is the most dangerous ever. After years of placating the crowds and pleasing promoters, the Warriors have adopted a "crush, kill, and destroy" agenda they swear
(Continued on page 54)

A LOT OF the so-called experts out there say these have been hard times for J.J. Dillon and The Four Horsemen, but I'm here to say there's no truth to that whatsoever. Things are just fine.

As proof, I present the facts: Ric Flair is still the NWA World heavyweight champion, Barry Windham is still the U.S. champion, and the Horsemen's financial condition is brighter than ever. In fact, the Horsemen are operating much more efficiently with two wrestlers and a manager. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson were taking up room. Besides, they didn't know how to follow orders.

Now, I'm not going to sit here and say Blanchard and Anderson were poor wrestlers. On the contrary, they provided outstanding service to me and the Horsemen. Indeed, much of the success of The Four Horsemen can be attributed to the contributions of Tully

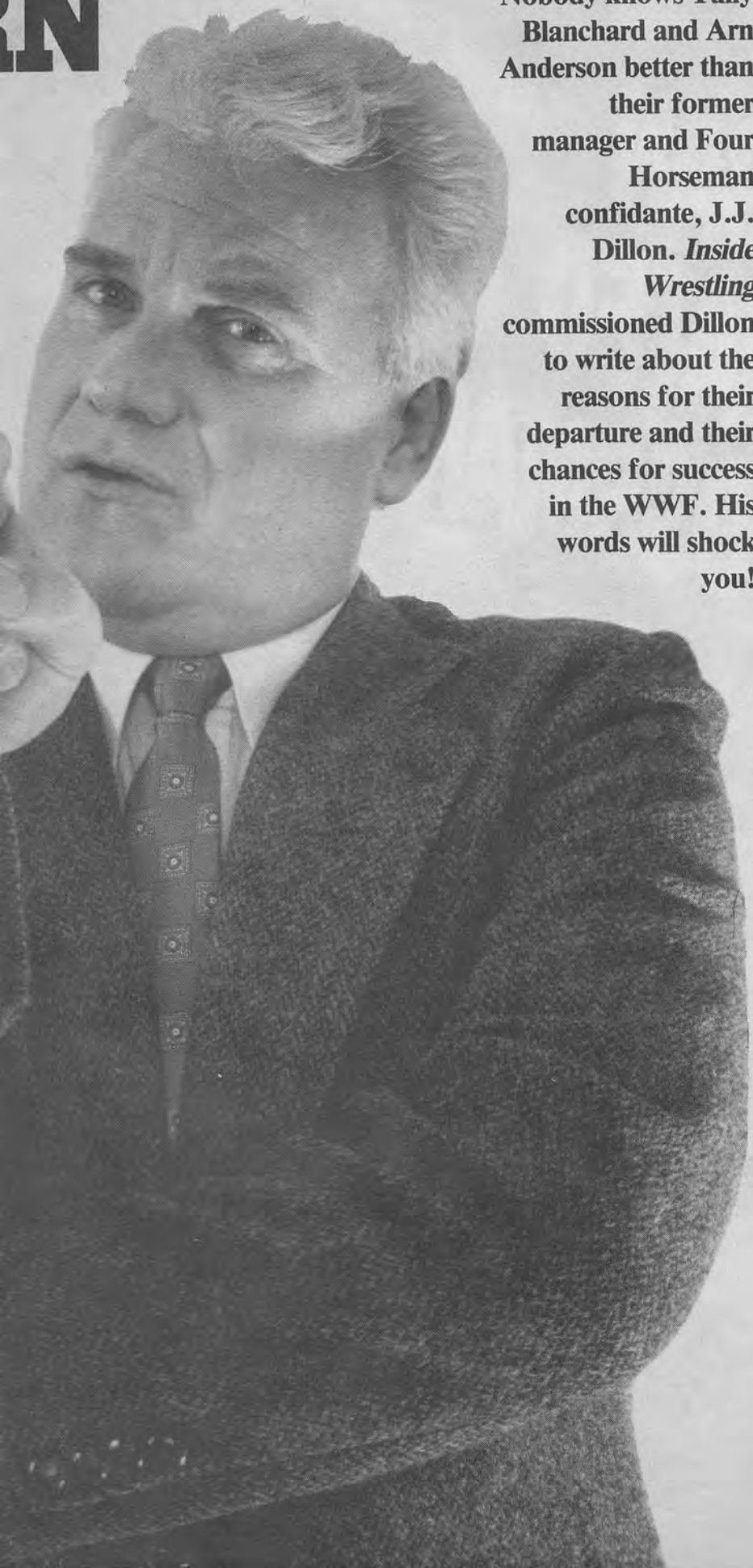
TULLY & AM WILL FAIL UNDER BOBBY HEENAN!

**A Special Analysis
By J.J. Dillon**



Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson have their hands raised in victory by their new manager, Bobby Heenan (above). Their former manager, J.J. Dillon (right), thinks Tully and Arn should never have left the NWA.

RN



Nobody knows Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson better than their former manager and Four Horseman confidante, J.J. Dillon. *Inside Wrestling* commissioned Dillon to write about the reasons for their departure and their chances for success in the WWF. His words will shock you!

and Arn. But in the end, things couldn't be worked out.

Looking back, it all started to unravel last spring when Barry Windham joined the organization. Actually, that should have been a great step toward the continued progress of the Horsemen, so you'll understand why I was shocked to read a story in the Fall edition of *Wrestling 88* headlined: "Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson: 'We Don't Want Barry Windham—We Never Did!'"

At a time when all of us—and I'm talking about Ric, myself, and Tully and Arn—should have been welcoming our new member, this filth came out in the national media. Needless to say, I was extremely dismayed. Tully and Arn later denied making the remarks, and Tully's lawyer even served *Wrestling 88* with papers claiming that the interview never took place.

Well, I spoke with Stu Saks, editor-in-chief of this magazine, several days later. He assured me that the interview *did* take place. Now, I've always had a positive relationship with *Inside Wrestling*, *Wrestling 88*, and all of its sister publications, so I took Mr. Saks at his word. Then I spoke with Tully and Arn about the situation, but they were greatly offended that I didn't take *them* at their word.

"You shouldn't have called Saks," Tully said.

"You shouldn't have said what you did," I responded. "We're a team, and any problems must be kept among ourselves."

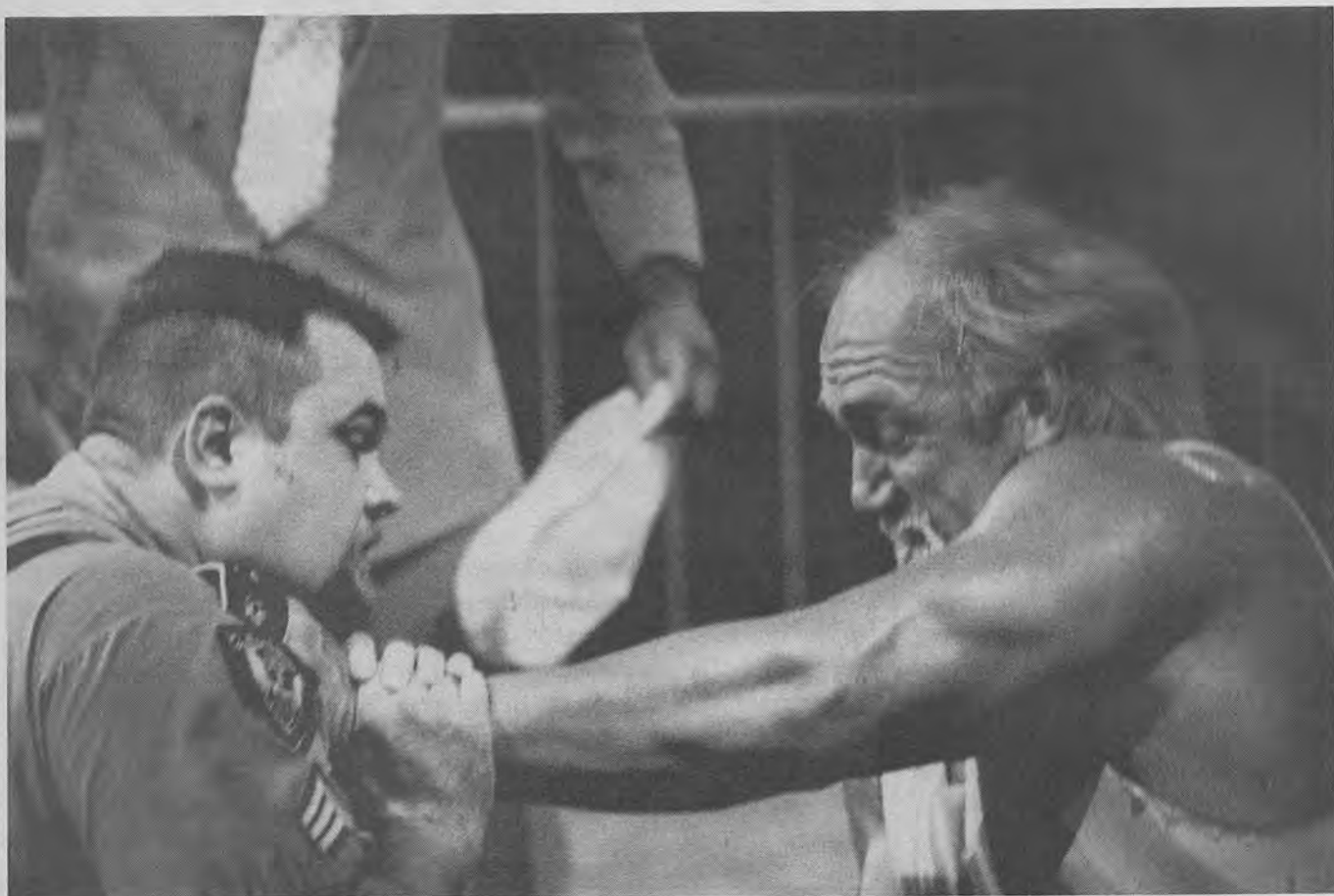
At that point, I knew our days were numbered. I knew that if we ever got down to a tight situation in a match, there was a good chance they wouldn't listen to my advice, and that they'd do whatever they wanted—which is what led to my dismissal of Lex Luger, you may recall. And, of course, that's

(Continued on page 58)

OUTRAGE
In The WWF!
HULK HOGAN
IS HUMILIATED
BY BIG BOSSMAN



Hulk Hogan is no fool—or is he? After what Big Bossman and his manager Slick did to “The Hulkster” on national television, one has to wonder if the former WWF World champion is still the formidable force Hulkamaniacs believe him to be!



Big Bossman chokes Hulk Hogan with his billy club (opposite page), but “The Hulkster” fights back (above). Hogan was attacked by Bossman and his manager, Slick, as he was being interviewed by Brother Love. Slick’s tactics have apparently worked: The former champion agreed to face Bossman in the ring for a series of matches.

AFTER THE INCIDENT, Big Bossman could joke with his friends.

“He told us that in the Cobb County jail, he beat up men twice Hogan’s size,” said one buddy. “He said that Hulk Hogan ain’t all he’s cracked up to be.”

Bossman may have dominated bigger men than Hogan, but none more important. In three minutes of mayhem, Bossman not only beat up a hated foe, he secured for himself a series of matches with the most popular athlete in wrestling history. It was a productive night for the former prison guard.

Hogan didn’t expect an attack that night, but why should he have? He was

being interviewed by Brother Love, who said “The Hulkster” had no love in him, and had “lost control” since he lost the WWF World title. He then announced that he would be receiving some “protection” from his benefactor. The protection was Bossman, who, along with Slick, joined Brother Love and Hogan on stage.

Slick taunted Hogan for being an ex-champion. As Hogan became enraged and traded verbal blows with the manager, Bossman hit him in the midsection with a nightstick. Slick followed up the assault by spraying Hulk in the face with an unknown substance. After continuous beatings with his billy club, Bossman handcuffed “The Hulkster” to a ring barrier and choked him with the

stick.

In desperation, Hogan grabbed Bossman and kned him in the groin. Still cuffed to the ring barrier, Hulk chased Bossman and Slick back to the dressing room.

“I’ve never seen Hogan beaten up like that,” said Warner Wedman, a Philadelphia fan who considers himself a dedicated Hulkamaniac. “Bossman really cleaned his clock! When the Bossman started hitting Hulk with that nightstick, Hulk really suffered. It was sad.”

His pride more injured than his body, Hogan agreed to wrestle Bossman under any circumstances, and a series of matches was quickly arranged.

(Continued on page 62)

HOTSEAT

SGT. SLAUGHTER

"I'M BACK TO ANSWER AMERICA'S CALL!"

ATTENTION ALL wrestlers who dare to insult and degrade the United States and its territories: America's hero is back! Sgt. Slaughter has returned!

After spending almost two years wrestling mainly in independent federations, Slaughter is back in the AWA, where he captured the Americas title in 1985. Although the AWA dropped that title when Slaughter left the organization in 1986, the Sarge was anxious to return after learning that such anti-American rulebreakers as Col. DeBeers, Soldat Ustinov, and Teijho Khan were making life miserable for AWA fan favorites.

Unfortunately, DeBeers decided to greet Slaughter in his usual vicious manner. The South African mercenary sneak-attacked him during an interview on September 19 in Memphis. DeBeers delivered a face-first piledriver to Slaughter on the cement floor outside the ring, sending the 310-pound former Marine drill instructor to a nearby hospital with severe back and neck injuries.

Fueled by his anger, Slaughter bounced back quickly from this heinous attack. At press time, he was busily preparing for his boot camp match against DeBeers on December

13 at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago. DeBeers now looms as the most important opponent for Slaughter since his feud with The Iron Sheik in 1985.

Assistant Editor Bob Smith caught up with Slaughter at a local gymnasium in Chicago, where Slaughter has been working out daily since his recovery from DeBeers' senseless attack.

“

It really gets under my skin the way guys like DeBeers, Ustinov, and Khan use their wrestling careers as forums for their evil ideas.

”

Q: Sarge, it's good to see you up and working out again after that terrible attack by DeBeers. What did you ever do to prompt such an atrocious action by this man?

A: Damned if I know. Man, that was quite a day I had in Memphis, wasn't it? That maggot DeBeers wouldn't give me a minute's peace.

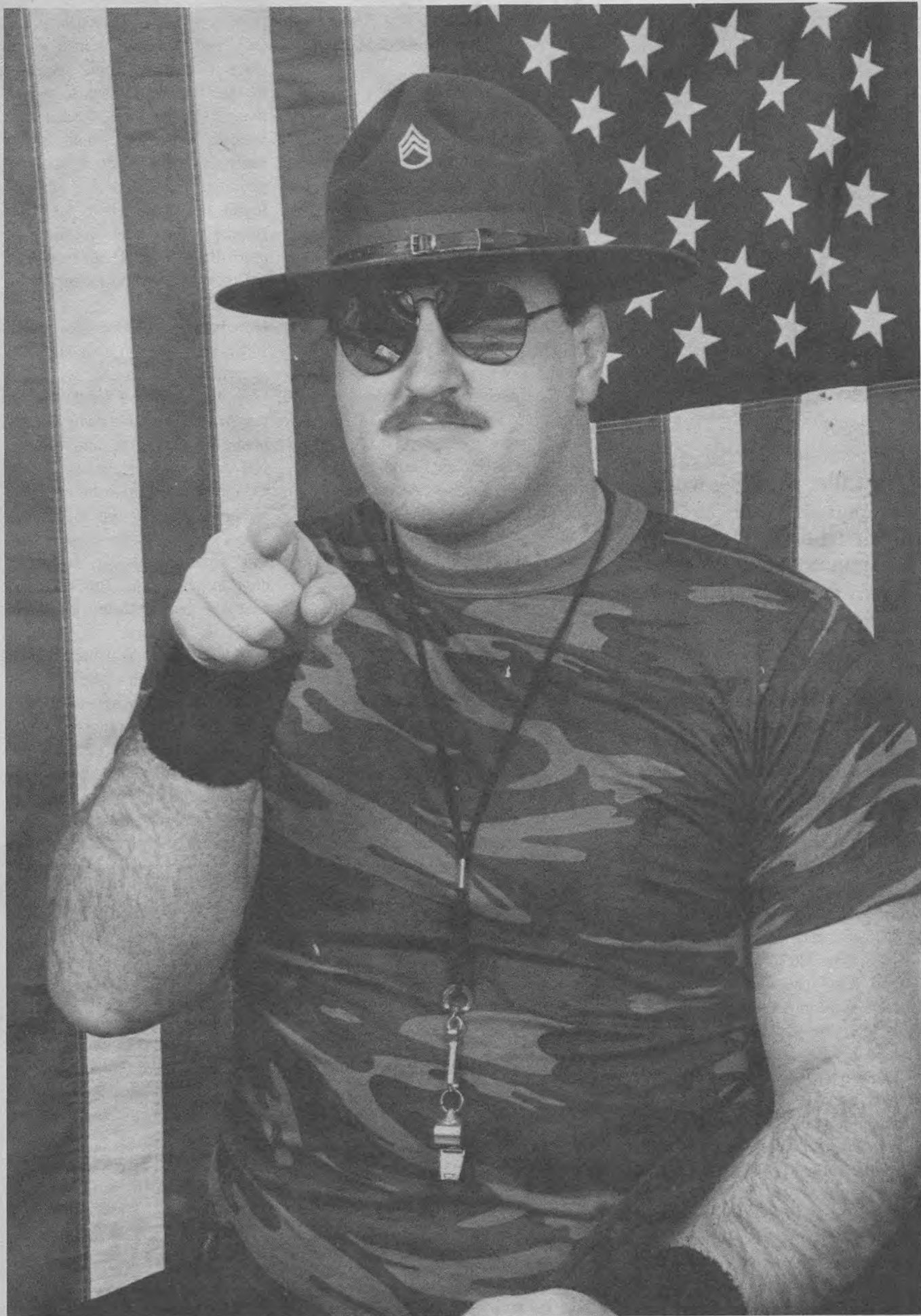
First, I was wrestling a young guy named Terry Adams when DeBeers came out and interfered. I was so mad that I walked into the promoter's office and demanded a match against DeBeers that same night. They couldn't squeeze in another bout on the card, but luckily my pals Robert Gibson and Rick Morton, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, said they would let me join them for a six-man match. This way, DeBeers joined Khan and Ustinov against me and the Rock 'n' Rolls.

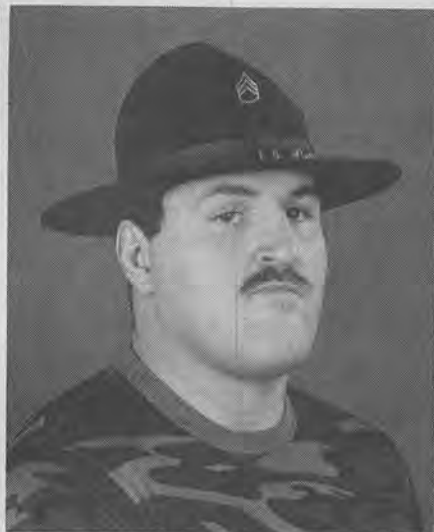
Q: Unfortunately, you didn't manage to get your hands on DeBeers right away.

A: I only wish I'd had the chance! You see, DeBeers, being the gutless maggot he is, walked out after only a few minutes of action. Then, as our winning team was being interviewed afterward, those scum Khan and Ustinov challenged Rick and Robbie to get back in the ring. As I cheered them on, DeBeers came out of nowhere, and by now everybody knows what happened.

Q: You haven't answered my question yet, though. Why does DeBeers hate you so much?

A: I don't think he hates *me* as much





“

The entire wrestling world knows that I beat The Iron Sheik within an inch of his life so many times it wasn't even funny!

”

as he hates the United States of America, my friend. He hates my patriotism. He's as outspoken *against* America as I am patriotic. There's just no way we can both exist in this great country. DeBeers says he doesn't like it here, so he really ought to heed that hallowed old expression—love it or leave it! It really gets under my skin the way guys like DeBeers, Ustinov, and Khan use their wrestling careers as forums for their evil ideas.

Q: Is this why you decided to return to the AWA after being out of the mainstream for so long?

A: You bet it is. I'm back to answer America's call, Bobby. I've gotten a lot of mail from fans in all areas of the country, but the letters that most touched my heart were from some fans who regularly attend AWA matches. They were getting sick and tired of seeing men like Khan and Ustinov running around badmouthing the country. So when

I heard that DeBeers was heading in, I called AWA President Stanley Blackburn right away.

Q: That must have been pretty hard for you to do, though. I understand that you were quite upset when the AWA dropped its sanction of the Americas title back in August 1986.

A: Sure. I was angry about that. I was on tour all over the country when I found out that the AWA had dropped the Americas title because of what they called a “lack of title defenses.” What they didn't realize is that I was putting that belt on the line against top opponents all over the place, but out of the AWA boundaries. But I kept the belt, and as far as I'm concerned I'm *still* the Americas champion. A lot of the independent federations still consider me the champion, too. I'll bet the fans feel the same way.

Q: That's probably true. But you've kept a low profile for quite a long time now, wrestling mainly for independent federations like the NWF instead of the WWF or the NWA. Why did you make that decision?

A: Mainly because I wanted to reach out into the towns and cities that the bigger organizations don't seem to care about anymore. I wanted

to meet and talk to the people, the kids, and the veterans in a lot of places that some people never get to see. I really wanted to see all those folks out there. I wanted to learn as much as I could, and I really think it was one of the most gratifying things I've ever done. I found out that people love this country a great deal—maybe even *more* than I do. That's why I've got to put an end to maggot scum like DeBeers.

Q: How badly did DeBeers injure you when he gave you that face-first piledriver on the arena floor?

A: Well, I'd be lying if I didn't admit that he hurt me quite badly, mainly because I never saw him coming. He came close to breaking my nose, and I had to go into traction for about a week. But as you can see, I'm out of the hospital and I'm working out like I haven't done in years. Now I'm ready for anything that African idiot can dish out.

Q: You'd better be. You have a boot camp match with DeBeers at SuperClash III. How will this match differ from other bouts?

A: It's different because we both will be allowed to wear anything we want into the ring, and we can use anything we want against each other. He can use his riding crop; I



A young fan salutes Sgt. Slaughter as he enters the arena. Slaughter is back in the AWA to fight for the American ideals to which he has dedicated his career.



Col. DeBeers sneak-attacks Slaughter with his riding crop (above). After the assault, the Sarge is carried out on a stretcher (below).



can use mine. He can bring his South African flag to the ring, and you just *know* that Old Glory will be there in full force. He can hit me with anything he has on his person—and I use that term very loosely—and I'll be wearing my steel-tipped boots, just like I did during my boot camp matches with The Iron Sheik a few years ago.

Q: And what wars those were! Speaking of The Iron Sheik, he's been very vocal about you during some of his recent interviews in the Southern Championship area. He claims that he defeated you every time he ever met you.

A: Bull! The entire wrestling world knows that I beat the Sheik within an inch of his life so many times it wasn't even funny! If he's man enough to come to any arena

where I'm wrestling, I'd be more than happy to beat the packings out of him in or *out* of the arena. I'll tell you, that guy has been my biggest disappointment in wrestling.

Q: Why is that?

A: It's because I didn't send him back to Iran for good. He's still the most evil force I've ever come up against in wrestling, and that includes DeBeers. I won't consider my mission as America's greatest patriot finished until I end the Sheik's career once and for all.

Q: How about other anti-American wrestlers such as The Russian Assassins, Skandor Akbar, and Makhan Singh?

A: Hell, I don't care *who* they are, or what federation they compete in. If they speak out against this great land, they're on my hit list. But for



“

That piledriver Col. DeBeers gave me will look like child's play when I put my cobra clutch around his neck and squeeze the life out of his body.

”

now, I've got a certain man dead in my sights.

Q: Obviously you're talking about DeBeers again.

A: Right you are. There's no way I'll let this outspoken slime continue to take money from hard-working Americans just to put down our country and our president. That piledriver he gave me will look like child's play when I put my cobra clutch around his neck and squeeze the life right out of his wretched body. It's gonna be one of the greatest moments in my career.

Q: Sarge, it's been great to get a chance to speak to you. I'm sure the fans are thrilled to be able to see you in action again in the AWA.

A: I'm glad about that, but I'll bet I'm *twice* as happy to see them. Just remember that whenever those fans need me, I'll be there to wipe out the men they hate. You got that, civilian? You're dismissed! □

Dan Davis vs. DOUBLE NIGHTM IN THE

Dan Davis and Ken Wayne were once close friends and Continental tag team champions. Today, these same men are bitter enemies, struggling to end each other's careers in the most violent ways imaginable. Can the CWF survive this ugly war?

"HOLD STILL, DANNY," begged the ring doctor, trying to place the last of a host of stitches in the head and scalp of the writhing, severely cut wrestler. "One more stitch, I'll be all finished. Please, try to lie still if you can."

"Nightmare" Dan Davis finally calmed down enough to allow the physician to finish the job. A group of stunned but fascinated reporters watched intently as the doctor removed bits of glass from Davis' head and applied the final stitches, adding a butterfly closure for good measure.

"Forget any interviews, people," said the ring doctor as he applied a soothing ointment to the

numerous wounds on Davis' head. "This man nearly ended up in the hospital tonight. He's lost a lot of blood, and he's in no shape to talk to anybody."

"Don't listen to him," groaned Davis, reaching up to feel the stitches—as well as the bald patches on his head where hair used to be. "I have a *lot* to say about this match, and about the guy who did this to me. Damn, it's hard to believe I ever teamed with Ken Wayne, isn't it?"

The hatred between Davis and Wayne continues to gain momentum with each passing day. Only months ago, these men comprised The Nightmares, the most popular team in the history of the

Continental Wrestling Federation. Today, few fans can believe Davis and Wayne ever functioned as a championship duo. Fewer still can believe the sudden, violent change in Wayne, a man they once cheered for as much as Davis.

"You tell *me* who the winner of this match was!" Wayne gloated in the opposite locker room as Tony Anthony and Jerry Stubbs emptied cans of beer over his head in celebration. "That bum used me for months, but I finally wised up. I was never gonna be a big star in this business until I showed the world what a loser Davis really is. Well, I'm up and around, but he left the ring on a

Ken Wayne: ARE CWF!



Ken Wayne shaves the head of his former partner, Dan Davis.

stretcher. I proved my point, don't you think?"

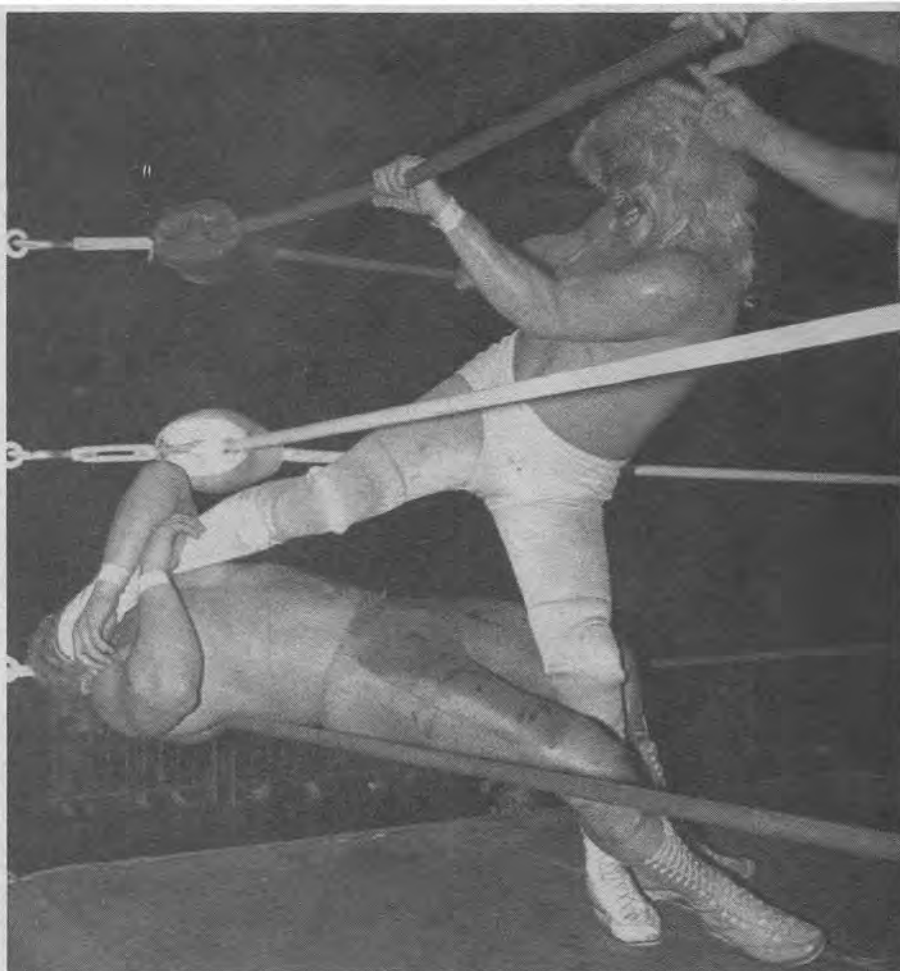
The Davis-Wayne hair vs. hair bout, a feature match on the "Road To Birmingham" card October 3, was supposed to be the confrontation that ended this vicious war. The man who lost was also to receive a free hair clipping at the hands of the winner. Wayne wasn't about to let that happen—even if he lost.

Davis was brilliant during this bloody bout, surprising Wayne for the winning pinfall and the right to cut off his former partner's golden locks. Things turned ugly, however, when Wayne left the ring, grabbed a soda bottle, and crashed it over Davis' head. Crazy with power, Wayne took control of the shears and clipped Davis' head. When order was finally restored, Davis, the actual victor in the match, looked like anything *but* a winner as he was wheeled away from ringside, a grisly mess of blood and hair.

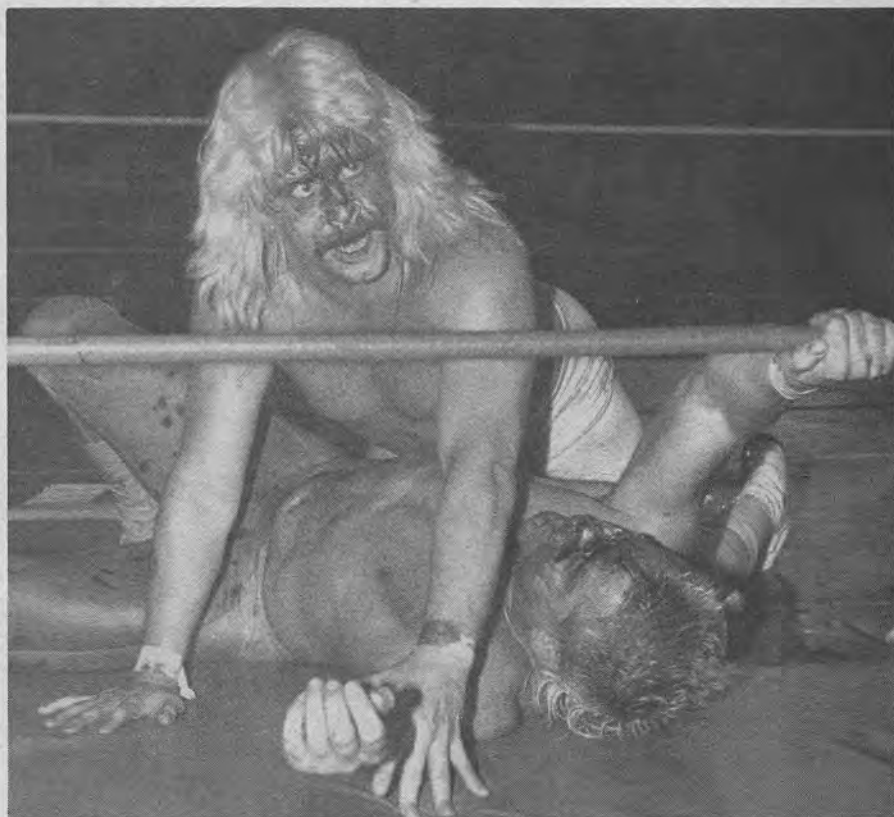
How things have changed since the spring, when Davis and Wayne held the CWF tag team championship. Trouble brewed when they began arguing during tag team matches, mainly about the rulebreaking tactics Wayne had begun to favor. Those bad feelings escalated into violence on May 29 in Birmingham, when Davis and Wayne lost the CWF tag team title to D.I. Bob Carter and Mark Pyle. Wayne repeatedly refused to take Davis' tags and eventually beat him up, leaving his partner alone in the ring to suffer the losing pin.

Since then, Davis and Wayne have engaged in numerous battles with neither man gaining an advantage—until Wayne unveiled a new weapon.

"That goody-two-shoes crap just doesn't cut it in 1988," recalled Wayne about the breakup of the team. "Times have changed, and so have I. That's why I went out and got the guid-



Wayne shoves a boot into Davis' throat (above) and makes the cover (below). The feud between them has become so brutal that it threatens to end both of their careers.



ance I *really* needed."

That guidance came in the form of Paul E. Dangerously, who functioned as Wayne's adviser

from the summer months until Dangerously left the federation in October. Wayne suddenly became the most savage wrestler in

the area—and the CWF junior heavyweight champion as well, as he used Dangerously's cunning to win the title from Davis on August 8 in yet another violent bout.

Alone, and without the title he considers rightfully his, Davis vowed to gain revenge on Wayne during the hair vs. hair bout. He was pleased when he was granted the match by CWF officials, but was disappointed to learn that the match could only be sanctioned as a non-title bout. As he sat near his locker recovering from his injuries suffered in this brutal match, Davis realized that he could never defeat a man like Wayne by playing by the rules.

"People like Dangerously and Stubbs have ruined Kenny forever," said Davis, becoming increasingly angered. "But now it's time to fight like I never have before. I won't be satisfied until I see him take a stretcher ride like I did. He's not the same man he once was, and I guess it took a few stitches to make me realize it. What a fool I've been. Ken Wayne is no sportsman. He's no champion. I'm not sure you could call him a *wrestler* anymore, either."

CWF officials are beginning to agree with Davis. Continental President Ron West was livid about the tactics Wayne used to sabotage Davis.

"I don't like this at *all*," said West as he surveyed the mat covered with glass, hair, and blood after the bout. "Busting a soda bottle over someone's head is not the kind of conduct we want in the CWF, and I don't know if I can sanction this kind of brutality. We've tried to fine Ken a number of times, but Dan keeps threatening to pay them off; he wants to finish this war on his *own* terms, and that's fine. But I'm afraid that if Davis and Wayne keep it up, they could *both* lose their careers before this horrible feud is over."

That would be the biggest nightmare of them all. ☐

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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

ONE ON ONE



"Just remember, Jimbo: There's only one Midnight Express, and I've got them. The one and only. The original. Start packing your bags, buddy boy."

—Paul E. Dangerously

JIM CORNETTE AND Paul E. Dangerously are very similar people. Both manage a tag team that calls itself The Midnight Express, both wield foreign objects (a tennis racket and portable phone, respectively), and both interfere in the matches of their teams. You'd think these men would have no problem getting together for a nice chat. You'd be wrong.

Though Cornette and Dangerously share many traits, the most important of those traits is their hatred for each other. Both claim that their version of The Midnight Express is the world's best tag team.

Cornette's Express—currently Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton—has undergone many changes over the years. Originally, the team was comprised of Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose. Rose left and was replaced by Eaton, then Condrey left and was replaced by Lane. Last year, Condrey and Rose reunited in the AWA under Dangerously's guidance.

Although Cornette's Express hardly resembles the original version, the name remains the same. When Dangerously's team—the original Express—decided to take back its name, the battle lines were drawn.

Now rumors are circulating that Dangerously will bring Rose and Condrey in the NWA—which means we could see a Midnight Express vs. Midnight Express war very shortly. And that would only mean a series of explosive confrontations as Dangerously and Cornette face off . . . "One on One."

PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY:

Good to hear your voice, Jimbo. If things go according to plan, we might be seeing a lot of each other over the next few months. From what I hear, you're still calling those two pretty boys, Eaton and Lane, The Midnight Express. Well, if that's the case, I have some news for you: Eaton and Lane are *not* The Midnight Express, not by *any* stretch of your feeble imagination.

JIM CORNETTE:

And I suppose your collection of washed-up turncoats is the *real* Midnight Express? You forget, Paulie, that I *managed* Condrey and Rose. I know that those boys are of limited intelligence and ability, but I guess

that makes them a perfect match for you.

PD: Ah, very good, Jimmy. And by the way, how's mama? You know, I saw her the other day when I was walking by your house. I didn't know that she and the mailman were so close.

JC: Do you even *have* a mother? Besides, it's great to see my mama getting out. Not like your mother. She's probably sitting in some rocking chair covered in dust. And to give her a thrill, you probably fix her up with that fat boy, Condrey. They're perfect for each other, but still a disgusting topic for the rest of us.

PD: I don't think your mother was going out, pal, but enough

N ONE



"I suppose your collection of washed-up turncoats is the real Midnight Express? I managed Condrey and Rose. I know those boys are of limited intelligence."

—Jim Cornette

about her. As for Condrey, that *fat boy*, as you call him, has more skill in his little finger than . . .

JC: That little finger is called a pinky, by the way.

PD: Anatomy lessons from the expert, very nice. I'm sure you know about all the little parts of the body, your brain included. As I was saying, Dennis has more skill in his little finger than Eaton has in his entire overblown body. And as for Lane, well, I can't tell if he's a movie star or a disc jockey. He's certainly not a wrestler.

JC: You're right, Paul, he's *not* a wrestler.

PD: What? Am I hearing right? Is Jimmy Cornette actually agreeing with me?

JC: Yep. Stan Lane is not a wrestler . . . He's a *world champion* wrestler! Guess that just about puts things in their proper perspective, doesn't it? Hey, while we're on the topic of world titles, there's a funny joke going around the NWA right now and I'd like to share it with you. How come Paul E. Dangerously's pants keep falling down?

PD: Why don't you . . .

JC: Because he doesn't own any belts! Ha, ha! *Oooh*, I can hardly breathe!

PD: You know, Jimbo, that's not too bad, not bad at all—the part about you not breathing, of course. But you're right: I don't have any world titles, but that's not going to last for long. In case you haven't noticed, jack-

ass, I'm not even managing in the NWA yet, so how can I have any titles? But, you know, the history of Paul E. Dangerously proves that titles are attracted to me like magnets to metal.

JC: You mean like flies to . . .

PD: Mama Cornette's home cooking?

JC: I hate to spoil your illusion of poverty, but mama never had to lift a ladle in my house. We had a staff of servants for that. By now, your mother must be so bent up from housework that she resembles lower forms of life more than she looks like a woman. Of course, her resemblance to apes passed right on to you, gorilla face.

PD: Gorilla face? Certainly, you can think of something better than that, Jimmy boy. I know you're getting dull, but that old Cornette wit can't be *totally* gone. In fact, Dennis and Randy claim that besides me, you're the funniest man they ever met. I know this can't be true, but Dennis told me that you once lost a match to Baby Doll. Well, I said, "That's ridiculous, a woman can't beat a man in the ring." So to prove it, they showed me a picture of you in a pair of wrestling tights, and now I must agree: You *are* the funniest man I've ever seen.

JC: That's rich. Coming from the man who almost lost what little manhood he had when Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee slammed him into a steel post. Hitting those high notes better now, Paul?

PD: Those days are gone, Jimbo. I'll admit I've made some mistakes in the past, but not anymore. And I'll be hitting those high notes real fine when my men have those tag team belts wrapped around their waists and you're running and screaming around the ring with that tennis racket of yours. Just remember, Jimbo: There's only one Midnight Express, and I've got them. The one and only. The original. Start packing your bags, buddy boy, and shine up those belts, 'cause they'll be ours before you know what hit your sorry selves. □

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 7)

Certainly, they're not the *biggest* tag team, but they have been very successful at acquiring belts. For instance, they've won the WWF tag team title twice, the World Class tag team title, the CWA tag team title three times, and the Continental tag team title.

As you can see by the sparkle of gold, The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs is a great team.

ANGEL SURITA
Jersey City, NJ

AFTER THE FALL

Once all the hype and hysteria about SummerSlam 88 died down, I began thinking about the events of August 29 and, quite frankly, I was shocked. Imagine what kind of a person could do what Elizabeth did—and on pay-per-view television, no less!

Throughout all of the WWF circus, Elizabeth had stood above all the she-

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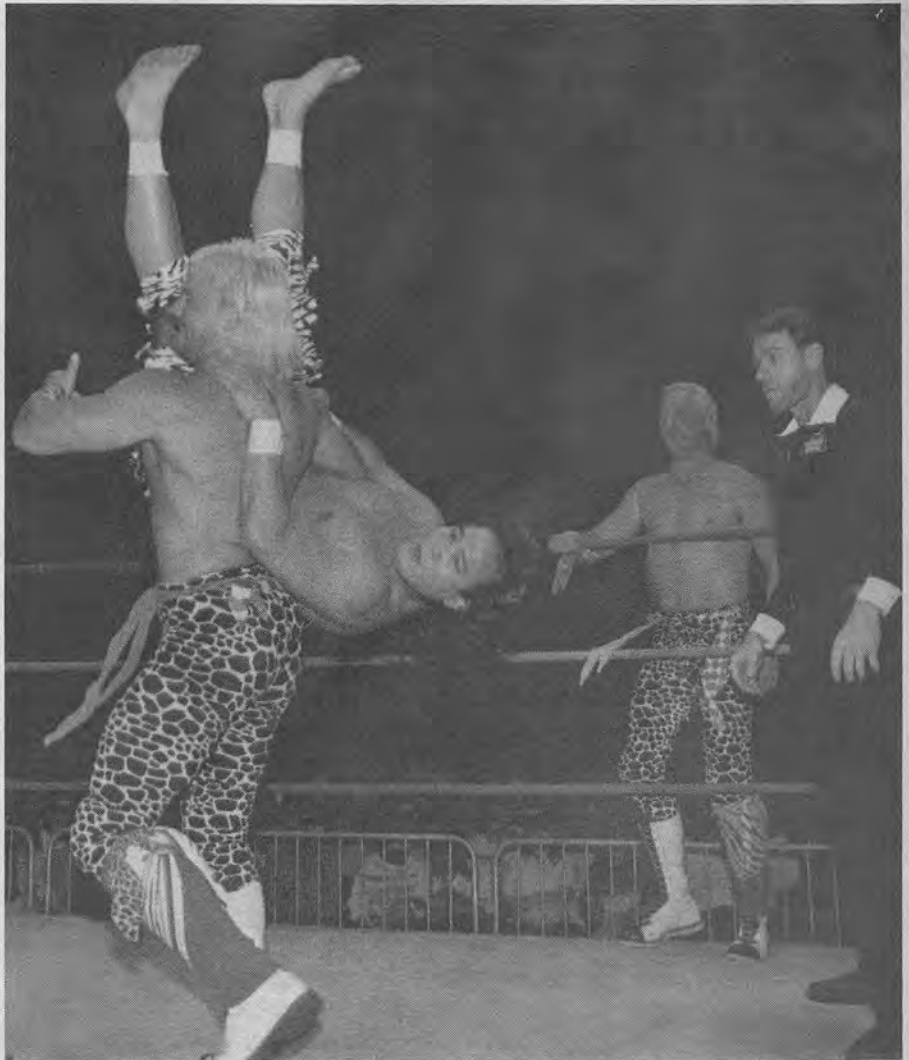
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Tommy Lane of The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs atomic kneedrops Pat Tanaka. In Angel Surita's opinion, the RPMs are a great tag team that receives little recognition.

nanigans with class. She is a grade-A manager.

Now it seems as though the pressure of working in Vince McMahon's side-show has finally gotten to Elizabeth. It was clear to me that, as she was undoing her skirt, she was doing something she really did not want to be doing.

From now on, it doesn't seem proper to call her "The Lovely Elizabeth" or "The First Lady Of Wrestling." Now, she's just as bad as the other freaks in the show.

What a loss.

JOHN MCKENZIE
Fairborn, OH

BAMBI BOOSTER

Regarding your story in the December 1988 *Inside Wrestling* about Bambi

and Lady Mystic's feud ("Continental Catfight! Bambi & Lady Mystic's Dirty White War"), I just wanted to share a few thoughts. Whatever punishment Bambi gives Lady Mystic she will deserve, because that Dirty White Girl is always sticking her nose where it doesn't belong. And Bambi will always be twice the wrestler—and twice the woman—Lady Mystic could ever hope to be!

MARC PECORARO
Paterson, NJ

TOO NAIVE

I read your December 1988 article "Kevin Von Erich vs. The System—A Losing Battle," and I had to laugh out loud. Here was the mighty Kevin Von
(Continued on page 50)

THIS MONTH IN...



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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 48)

Erich sidelined by a little foot injury and forced to watch as his equally mighty brother Kerry lost his title for him.

This only proves once and for all that the Von Erichs are just too darn naive for their own good. Kerry showed guts defending his brother's title rather than let it change hands via forfeit, but is he that stupid that he couldn't foresee Iceman Parsons enlisting his own band of outsiders to provide the necessary margin of victory? Maybe he is that stupid!

LISA SIMON
Houston

JUST A YELLOW ROSE

It seems that the yellow rose of Texas is made out of ceramic. That's one impression I received after watching AWA World champion Jerry Lawler—the true World champion—knock out Kerry Von Erich with just one punch in a title vs. title match in Dallas.

The other impression I got was that the Von Erichs always find a way to

get their titles saved when they get into trouble. After Lawler punched Von Erich, the match should have continued. Since Kerry could not get to his feet, he would have been counted out and Lawler would have been awarded both belts.

Instead, promoter Frank Dusek came into the ring and said that the World Class belt could not change hands because it wasn't an official match. Well, that's baloney; it was the main event on the program and it was *definitely* a title match. By no means should Kerry have kept the belt. He couldn't defend himself and fell from one punch. What kind of a champion is that?

Maybe Kerry should change his name to "Glass Jaw Von Erich."

BILL WALKOWITZ
Chicago

FLAIR'S NOT THE BEST

I have heard so many times that Ric Flair is the best of all professional wrestlers. As far as I'm concerned, Flair may be the best in the NWA, but he is certainly not the best in the world.

To be the best in the world, Flair would have to beat the top three wrestlers from all the other federations (I believe there are eight federations large enough to be considered). These matches would have to take place as part of some "Ultimate Challenge." Flair would have to pin or force his opponent to submit. No disqualifications would be allowed.

That's why Flair could never win this "Ultimate Challenge." A champion like Jerry Lawler (who is already undergoing his own "Ultimate Challenge") might be able to pin 24 men and remain undefeated, but Flair would *never* be able to.

Only the man who could beat all 24 challengers by pin or submission could then be considered the best wrestler in the sport!

WALLY TOMLINSON
Walla Walla, WA □



Kerry Von Erich unloads on AWA World champion Jerry Lawler. Bill Walkowitz thinks Lawler is a better champion than Kerry.

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MAY 1987

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

er.' And it's very tough to wrestle with that on your mind. Looking back, I'm glad I didn't wrestle Flair again until a month after that match. It would've been a wasted month."

The Mets went on to lose game four of the NLCS in extra innings—they had a chance to win it in the bottom of the ninth but blew a bases-loaded, one-out situ-

ation when even a fly ball would've driven home the tying run. The next day, the Mets and their fans were emotionless. It was as if everybody was still in shock from the previous night's game and needed a month to recover. The Mets lost 7-4 and went on to lose a series they appeared ready to win in five games.

"I guess in a lot of ways, I can understand how the Mets must have felt," Luger said, "although my situation was a little different. I was about to win the title. They were only about to win a game that would've *helped* them win the title, so in many ways my situation was tougher."

On the other hand, however, the Mets had a tangible advantage in game four. Baseball games are measured in runs, and the Mets had a two-run lead. There was no way to measure the lead Luger had over Flair in their July 10 match—if he had a lead at all. In fact, Flair seemed to be doing pretty well until Luger went on a rampage, forced Flair into a mistake, and caught him in the backbreaker.

But Luger didn't blow a lead. Luger didn't have his ace on the mound and a man who had only hit three homers during the regular season at the plate. Luger was facing the World champion, a man who had battled back from adversity before. Luger would've had to force Flair to submit, which Flair says he never would've done. The Mets only had to get three outs against a team that was very down emotionally.

The effect on the fans was astounding, too. At least in wrestling, there's always the next match. The wrestling season never ends, so a fan always has hope. For a baseball fan, there's only the long winter and, even worse, the agony of watching two

other teams play in the World Series.

The fans' outrage after the Luger-Flair match equalled any fan demonstration I have ever seen, but they had to be comforted by the fact that despite the outcome, Luger remained only one match away from winning the World title. For a fan of any baseball team but the world champion Los Angeles Dodgers, a world title is at least 200 games and 11 months away.

Luger is still after Flair's belt and, as we're seeing, it'll take an awfully tough man to beat "The Nature Boy," partly because he's an expert at cheating, but mostly because Flair is a tough, determined wrestler. Flair wouldn't have submitted to Luger unless he was on the verge of death. I believe that about Flair. Some may call him a coward, but he'll never submit the belt. There isn't enough pain anyone could put on him to make him submit.

But at least Luger is getting the chance. For the Mets, the 1988 World Series is something they can never win. In wrestling, championships are perpetual; there's no such thing as the 1988 NWA World championship. Titles are for all time. If Luger can beat Flair next year, he'll have won the same championship, only a year later.

Well, to amend Woody Allen's great line at the end of *Hannah And Her Sisters*: A sports fan's heart is an awfully resilient little muscle. With our teams, with our individual heroes, we'll keep bouncing back year after year to give them our support.

Who knows why? I guess that in the final analysis, that one big victory makes all the losses worthwhile. Being a sports fan can be pretty rewarding and exciting. But it can destroy your sleep, too. □



Lex Luger press-slams Ric Flair. Unlike a losing ball team, Luger won't have to wait another year for a shot at the title.



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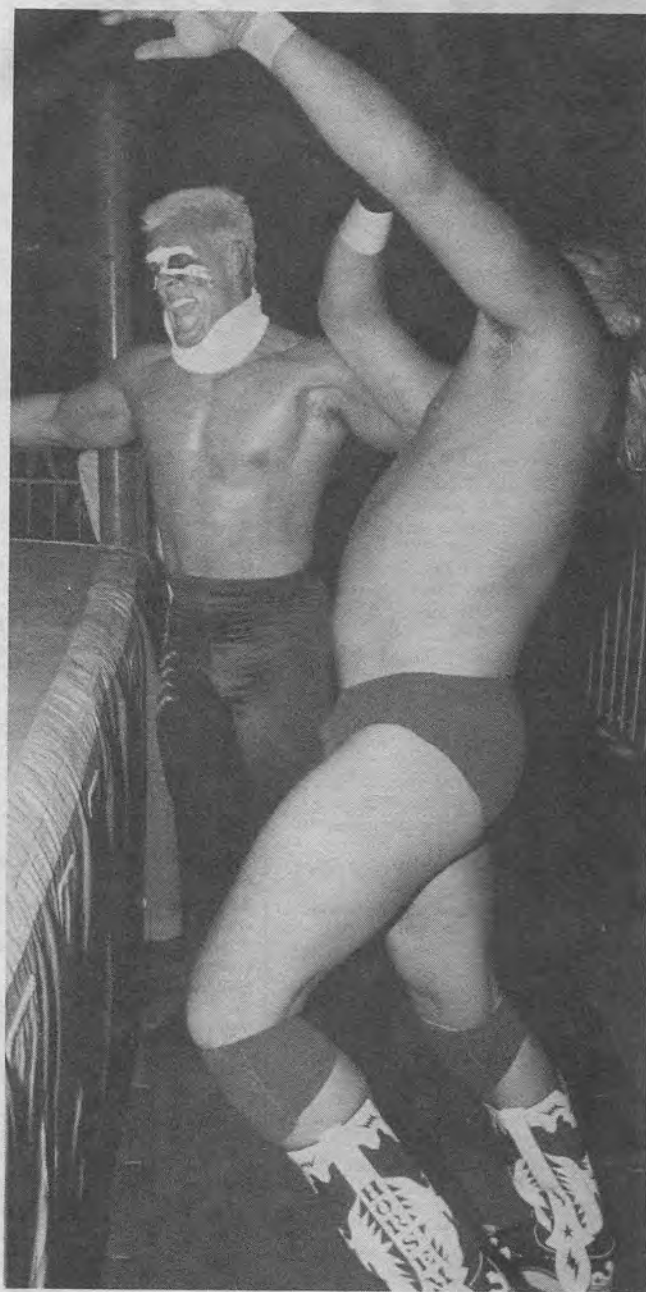
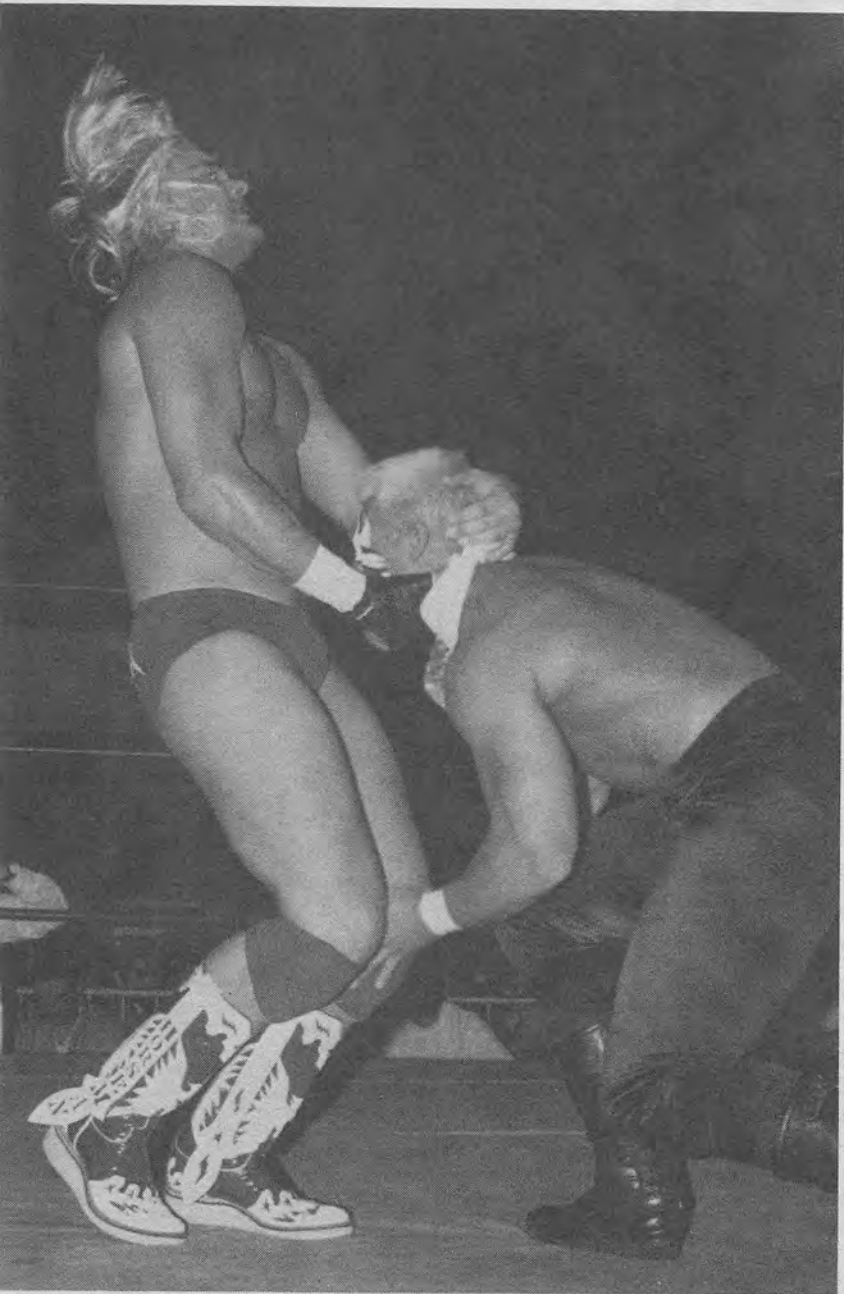
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ROAD WARRIORS

(Continued from page 33)



Windham pulls Sting up off the mat (above left). Sting intends to smash Windham's face into the canvas (above right). "The Stinger" was wearing a neckbrace following a surprise attack by the Warriors, the opening shot in the Warriors' war on Sting and the rest of the NWA.

will obliterate any and all opposition.

"It won't be pretty," Hawk promises. It's been a long time in coming, *too damn long*. I feel like I've spent the last two years in a daisy patch picking flowers. I'm done talking to the press, to the networks, to flunkys and jerks. I'm done talking. I'm ready to kick some butt. Let's get on with it."

"We've been resisting our impulses for too long," Animal agreed. "It's in our blood to beat, break, and batter.

We have our targets, and they will pay with their careers. No one is safe from us this time. It's time to get back to the old ways."

The unfortunate first recipient of the Warriors' blood-vows appears to be Sting. In a six-man tag team match that pitted the Warriors and Sting against Mike Rotundo, Kevin Sullivan, and Rick Steiner, Hawk and Animal turned against their partner and attacked him unmercifully toward the

end of the match. It required a full compliment of wrestlers to halt the Warriors' rain of punches, kicks, and slams on the helpless Sting.

"It was an excessive demonstration of strength and violence," Paul Ellering admitted in his dressing room after the match. "I'm extremely proud of my team." Under further questioning, Ellering quickly dispelled rumors that Sting was the sole target of the Warriors' attack.

"It's not Sting specifically," he explained. "In fact, my heart goes out to the youngster. He showed tremendous promise. He gave every indication of becoming a top-rate grappler. Now, I'm afraid, his career is about to end. The Warriors will not stop until they put Sting in the hospital. He is the current object of their wrath, but by no means the only one. When he is dispatched to the surgical ward, they will select another pawn to crush and smother."

"Hawk and Animal are tired of being abused. They are the most dominant tag team to ever step through the ropes, yet they are treated with contempt by old misfits like Dusty Rhodes. Alert the wrestling world that school is in session. The Warriors are about to teach plenty of people some important lessons."

Rhodes was originally scheduled to appear with the Warriors in the six-man tag match, but bowed out at the last moment to appear at a charity fundraiser. His absence infuriated Hawk.

"That fat old man thinks he can stand up the Warriors?" he barked. "And then replace himself with some hotshot renegade of his choosing? Not in this life, tubby. After we make chopped meat of Sting, we're going after Rhodes. Then Luger, and anyone else who stands in our way."

"I get sick just thinking we used to have a relationship with Rhodes," Animal said. "In fact, I'm sick of everyone. Hawk, Ellering, and I don't need anyone else. We're going back to basics."

Sting, reached at home where he is recovering from the attack, is mystified.

"I realized something wasn't right when the Warriors refused to tag me into the match, but I had no idea they planned to attack me. I wouldn't say we were friendly before then, but we held no grudges. They can talk all they want. Words don't scare me. As soon as I recover, I'll go right back after them."

Sting concludes by saying the Warriors are "flesh and blood, like everyone else," although, sitting painfully in his study, Sting is the one wearing the bandages—the first casualty of the new Road Warriors. ☐

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 16)

plained, "The low point of this club's existence was when Hawk came to a meeting and signed autographs. We're different from most fans. We never wanted the Warriors to like us, or even recognize us. We admired their style of straightforward brutality. We didn't expect them to cater to us. What made them great was their complete intolerance for everyone—fans, promoters, and opponents. When they started to receive more and more cheers was when we began to worry.

"This clearly is a sign that things will return to the way they were—and the way they should be. The Warriors are killing machines. They were born and bred to destroy, not sign autographs. Long live The Legion of Doom! Long live the Doomsayers!"

My colleagues are calling this *Road Warriors II: A Return to Glory*, although after the bloody thrashing the Warriors put on Sting, opponents will no doubt view the comeback as a return to *gory*.

What prompted the Warriors to turn so suddenly?

"We're mad as hell and not going to take it anymore," Ellering snapped. "This team has tolerated its final indignity. We have allowed too many people to take advantage of us. We've been trampled on by wrestling officials, by wrestlers, and by fans. By attempting to do the bidding of others, we sacrificed the soul of The Legion of Doom. Now it's *our* turn to do the trampling."

"Hawk and I tried to be nice," says Animal. "But it's just not in our nature. All it got us was trouble. Let Sting be a lesson to everyone out there. We have no friends, we want no friends. Get out of our way, or else we'll kill you."

But what of the fans? What's to



become of the thousands of sheep who brayed their support at your every match?

Animal's one-word response is unprintable.

"We never asked for their support," Ellering explained. "But as promoters recognize your popularity and marketability, they ask for favors. Sign autographs for a few minutes. Appear at a charity benefit. Go to a store opening. They think for a couple of bucks they can prostitute you. Like a fool, I encouraged Hawk and Animal to do it. It's my fault. We didn't need the money. I thought it would be the right thing to do. But the next thing . . ."

"The next thing you know you're wrestling alongside a tub of lard like Dusty Rhodes and not thinking anything of it," Hawk interrupted. "Suddenly you're hanging around with knuckleheads like Sting and Luger."

"Not that Flair or Windham or The Midnight Express are any better," Animal added. "Problems

Sting, his neck in a brace as a result of the Warriors' attack, symbolically vows revenge by ripping a picture of Hawk and Animal. "The Stinger" will get his chance; he's number one on the Warriors' hit list.

start when you get involved with other people. We read the magazines. They wonder why we've never won the NWA tag team title. Soon all questions will be answered. Let our actions speak for us. Ask Sting how soft and lazy we've become. We don't need anyone but ourselves. Like the old days, when me and Hawk used to eat off the same plate and drink out the same glass."

"And break the same bones," Hawk added with a smile. "Soon it will be just like the old days."

The old days bring smiles to the faces of Scott Lund and the rest of the Doomsayers. "Remember when the Warriors first appeared," he says, "and no one ever saw anything like them? It'll be great if they can revive those memories."

Here's to the old days. □

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January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
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August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.
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January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
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May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
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July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.
November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.
December 1987/Grappling Ghoulis, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card



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January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
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April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
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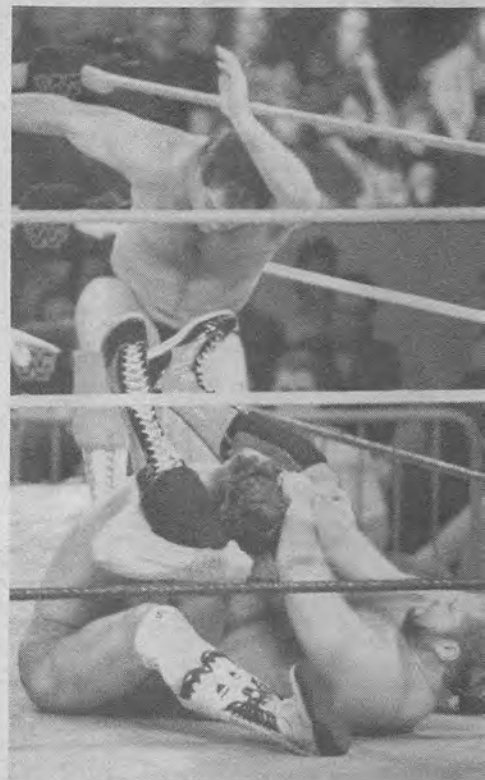
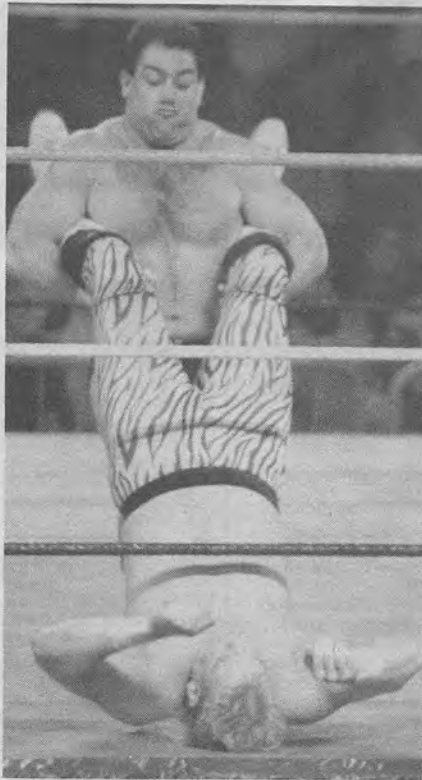
TULLY & ARN

(Continued from page 35)

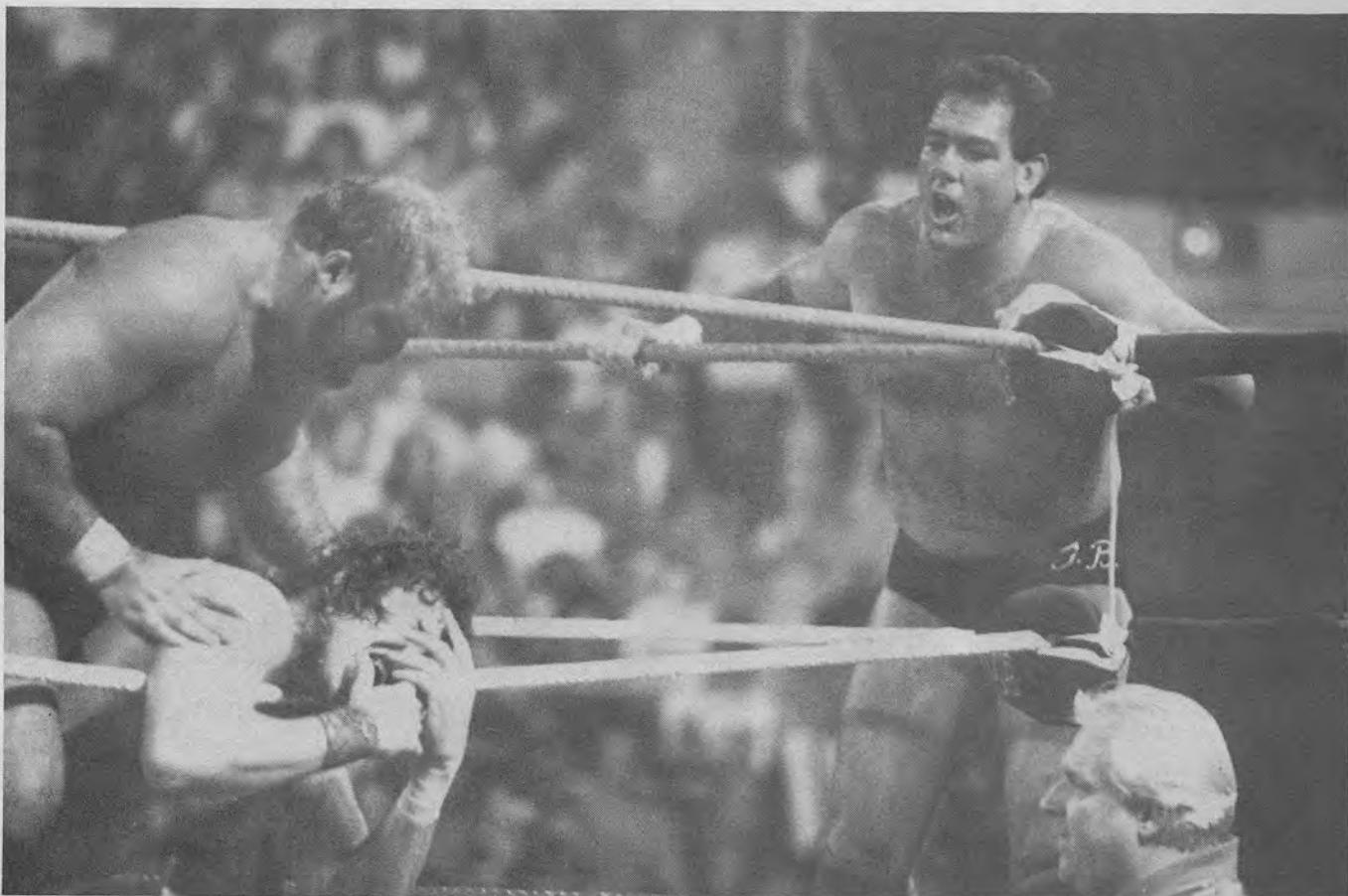
what happened on September 10 in Philadelphia. Tully and Arn lost the NWA tag team belts to The Midnight Express primarily because of a mistake in judgment by referee Tommy Young, but they could have overcome Young by following my pre-match strategy.

I'm not going to go into exactly what that strategy was, nor will I point out their actual mistakes. Let me say, however, that Luger made an almost identical mistake nearly one year ago and it cost him the U.S. belt. Following that loss, he decided to blame me for his failures when, in reality, he would never have failed if he had listened to me.

The day after Tully and Arn lost the belts, we had a brief but friendly discussion. Once again I cannot disclose the details of this discussion, but I will say that we decided to part on very favorable terms. There were simply several



Tully flips Rusty Riddle into the ropes (above left) and joins Arn in a double-team on Sam Houston (above right). Tully shouts encouragement and Heenan watches carefully as Arn batters Houston (below). In Dillon's opinion, Heenan will do nothing for Tully and Arn because he's a bad manager who doesn't understand the sport.



matters that we could not reach an agreement on, so a breakup seemed appropriate.

Now let me get right to the heart of the matter. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson are outstanding wrestlers, two of the best in world. I admire them for their athletic ability, guts, and determination.

Unfortunately, they aren't too bright. That's one of the reasons they hired me as a manager, and I suppose it's the main reason why they decided to hire a manager when they went to the WWF.

Their choice of a manager, however, left much to be desired. There's absolutely nothing Bobby Heenan can do for Tully and Arn, short of bogging them down in useless feuds. Tully and Arn need a manager to do the *thinking* for them. They need a manager to handle all of the subtleties of professional wrestling.

They need someone to tell them what to do.

Believe me, Bobby Heenan doesn't know wrestling. I've seen what he's done with other wrestlers, and I'm not too impressed. Heenan has a reputation for getting his men title shots, but what do they do once they get them? Paul Orndorff? Failed. Andre the Giant? Failed. And Tully and Arn will follow the same path to failure as Orndorff and Andre, because Heenan can't give them the guidance they so desperately need.

Simply put, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson will fail under Bobby Heenan. They will fail in the WWF. They will fail because Bobby "The Brain" has no brain whatsoever.

It pains me to say this, but Jim Cornette would probably do a better job with them.

In conclusion, I proudly state that the only two men I manage are champions. As it stands now, the score is J.J. Dillon 2, Brain 0. I fully expect the shutout to continue in the foreseeable future. ☐

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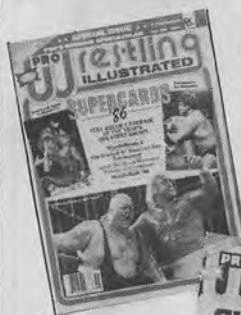
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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)



Kevin Sullivan, the leader of The Varsity Club, feels that Collins, a GWA wrestler he helped train, is capable of greatness. But first, Sullivan says, the youngster must learn to concentrate on his game and eliminate all distractions—including women.

about half of what a day at the store puts in his wallet. And although he sports a black eye (the result of an illegal Embry haymaker), Collins is smiling as he meets the press in the dressing room.

"When I dream," he says, pressing an ice-pack against his eye, "it's not about long-term crib leases. I want to be a world champion someday. I want to show the world I can wrestle with the best."

As junior heavyweight champion of the fledgling Florida-based Global organization, Collins' opponents include Nasty Ned and Haiti Kid Berto, names not particularly known in most wrestling households. "Don't discount the talent down here," Collins says. "The quality of competition will surprise you."

It certainly surprised me the next night, when I sat among several hundred fans and watched Collins wrestle and defeat Executioner I, a grappler capable of tremendous feats—with a knife and

fork. "Executioner is fat but tough," Collins says diplomatically. GWA, one of the many independent circuits in the country, is struggling to survive, and its wrestlers are reluctant to mock their colleagues, no matter how pathetic they look.

At the warehouse the next day, Collins admitted he needs a better quality of competition to display his own skills.

"I know I have the talent," he said confidently, and he does. Trained by Lars Anderson and Kevin Sullivan at Anderson's Aspen Academy of Wrestling Arts, Collins could certainly work in a major federation—if someone gave him the chance. "I've been trained by the best," he says. "Now I just need a break. I need the right people to see me in action, to see what I'm capable of."

Those who watch Collins in the ring will see a high-flying grappler fundamentally sound in all dimensions of the sport. His finishing maneuver, a dropkick off the top

rope, is guaranteed to lift a crowd to its feet.

"I only train men I feel are capable of greatness," Sullivan says. "Collins has unlimited potential, but he must learn to concentrate. To be a successful wrestler, you must eliminate distractions. Thus far, I don't believe he has successfully done that."

Collins will be the first to admit a wild streak. In high school, he was a star athlete, excelling in football, baseball, and wrestling. But he was consumed by a wanderlust, and resisted several scholarship offers to major universities.

"I like to party, I like to squeeze some thrills out of life," he says, hugging his two valets. "Sometimes it's worked for me, other times it hasn't. But I can't change who I am."

It sounds like an image gleaned from watching one too many Ric Flair matches over the years. It's a comparison that doesn't wash. Flair's early career, the lean years before the jewels and champagne, was characterized by training, training, and more training. "I never allow the partying to interfere with my training," Collins contends, yet reports from several local night spots establish Steve's reputation in no uncertain terms. "He's the king of darkness down here," confessed a local waitress who keeps tabs on such things. "The man never sleeps."

Collins' days alternate between dreams of ring glory, title bouts, limousines—and the furniture store. He's negotiating with Steve Keirn and Mike Graham about a possible contract, and has sent his videotape—an impressive compilation of career clips—to several promoters.

"You can't give up hope," the handsome young man says with a smile. "You've got to pursue your dream every way you can."

He might start by getting a good night's sleep. ☐

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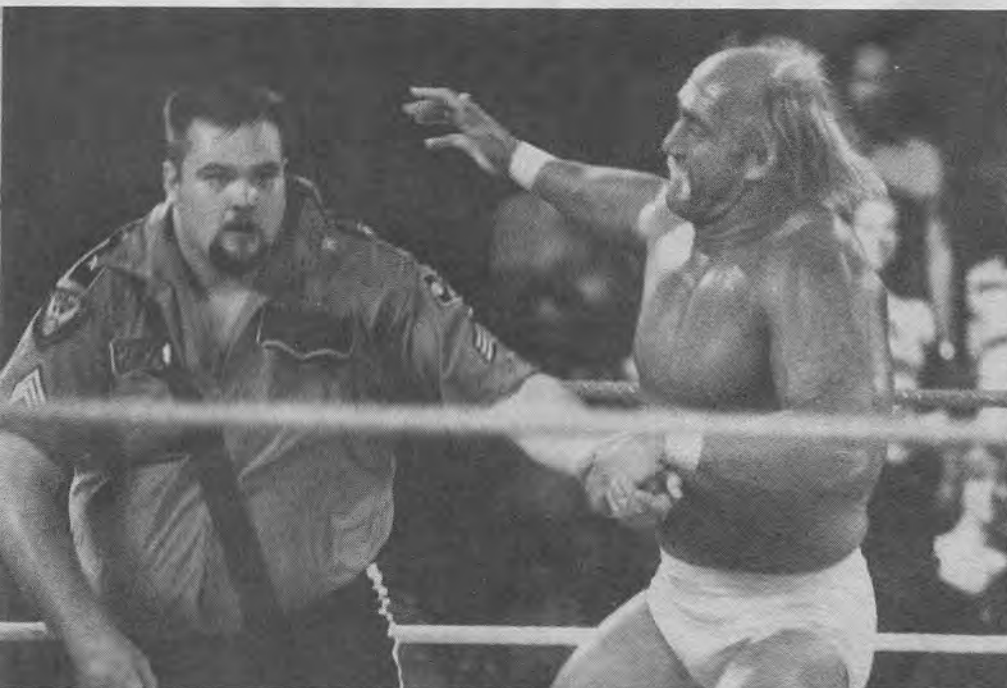
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HOGAN VS. BOSSMAN

(Continued from page 37)



Hogan whips Bossman across the ring (above) and takes a swing at him (bottom). The big prison guard gets a taste of his own medicine; Hogan has handcuffed him to the ropes (opposite page). Hogan is winning the war, but he has already paid a heavy price.

ranged by WWF promoters. In several of their bouts, Bossman has attempted to put Hogan in handcuffs. But in one case, Hogan managed to use the cuffs on Bossman, cuffing Bossman to the ropes and clotheslining him over the ropes. Unable to get back into the ring, Bossman was counted out.

"Bossman will never be half the wrestler Hogan is," said Wedman, who saw one of Hogan's destructions of Slick's behemoth. "He should go back to being a prison guard. It's much safer than wrestling Hulk."

For now, Hogan is effectively eliminating the Bossman threat. But the fact remains that he was embarrassed by their confrontation on Brother Love's segment.

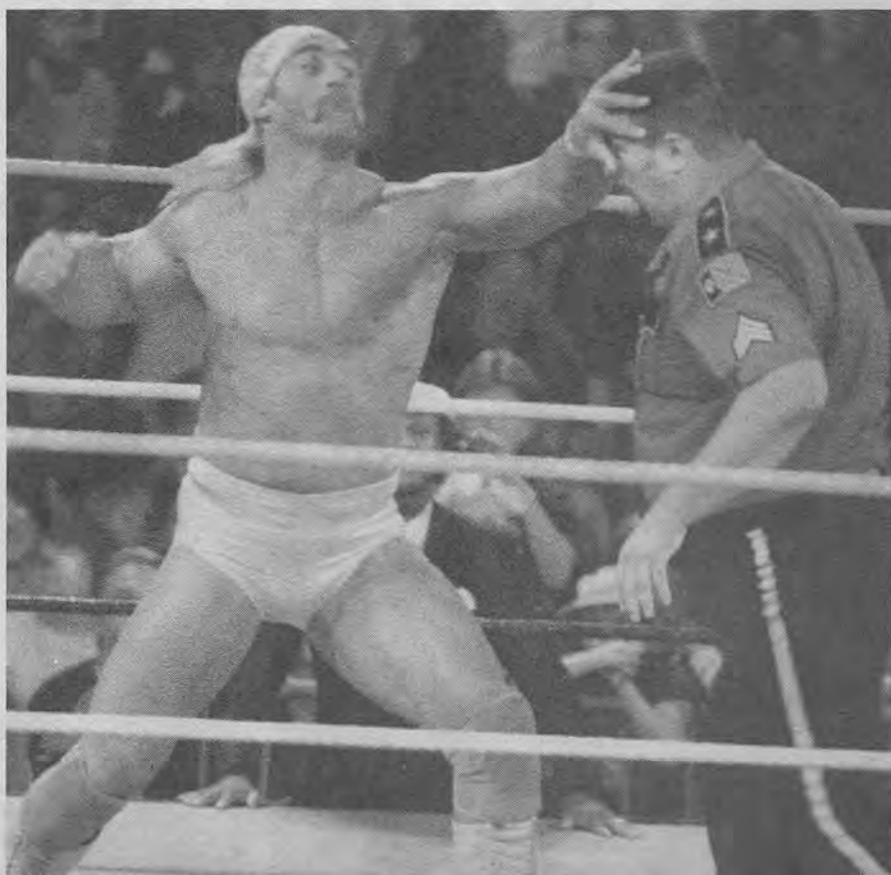
"Hulk told me that he's never been so humiliated by anyone, not even Andre the Giant," said a close friend of the former champion. "He's determined to show everyone that he's still a major force in the WWF. He doesn't want anyone to forget who he is or why he's wrestling. As long as he's not the champion, he'll always feel that he has something to prove."

Unfortunately for Hogan, many

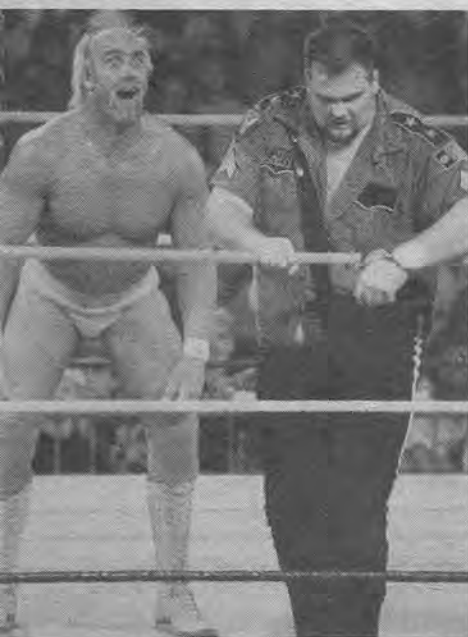
Detroit but has several friends in rural areas of the country. "They only know what they see on TV, and what they see is Hogan being humiliated. They won't forget it too quickly. Sometimes it takes a long time for the news to catch up. Already, my friends have told me that they're losing respect for Hogan."

Other fans disagree with Morgan's assertion. "I don't know who he's talking to, but the people I know still think Hogan is the greatest, even without the title," said Patty Ackerman of Fort Wayne, Indiana. "They're not going to abandon him just because one bad thing happened to him. If anything, they'll support him more than ever. They've been Hulkamaniacs for the past four years, and they'll be Hulkamaniacs all the way."

However, in a federation where "Macho Madness" is starting to equal Hulkamania, the Hulkamaniacs do not carry as much weight as they used to. To be sure, Hogan and Savage are allies. But as long as Savage has the title belt, Hogan will be watching the "Macho Man's" moves very carefully.



"That works the other way, too," said *Inside Wrestling* Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum. "Don't expect Savage to give Hogan much help in his war against Bossman. Savage has enough to worry about from Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant. Bossman is just another match down the road for Randy."



As far as Bossman is concerned, Savage is just another match down the road for him, too. "From what I've heard, Bossman is obsessed with Hogan," said Rosenbaum. "He wants to destroy what he calls the Hogan myth. As we've already seen, he isn't afraid to use the tactics that helped him subdue hardened criminals. Slick has him primed to make a major impact."

If Bossman fails in his task of defeating Hogan, Slick has other big men waiting for a shot at glory. One Man Gang's recent conversion to Akeem has given him a new purpose. There are The Bolsheviks, Nikolai Volkoff and Boris Zuhov, both of whom have wrestled Hogan in singles matches; they're aching for another chance to get their hands on "The Hulkster."

Hogan's response might be "Bring 'em on," but perhaps he should be more careful. Another humiliation like the one suffered at the hands of Bossman could do irreparable harm to his career, both physically and mentally. It's a risk he—and the Hulkamaniacs—may not be able to afford. ☐

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
WWF World champion | 4— LEX LUGER
No. 2 contender: NWA title | 8— HULK HOGAN
No. 3 contender: WWF title | 12— RONNIE GARVIN
AWA TV champion |
| 2— JERRY LAWLER
AWA World & World Class champion | 5— ANDRE THE GIANT
No. 2 contender: WWF title | 9— STING
No. 3 contender: NWA title | 13— THE HONKY TONK MAN
No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title |
| 3— RIC FLAIR
NWA World champion | 6— BARRY WINDHAM
U.S. heavyweight champion | 10— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
WWF Intercontinental champion | 14— ICEMAN PARSONS
World Class Texas champion |
| | 7— KERRY VON ERICH
No. 1 contender: AWA/WCCW titles | 11— TED DIBIASE
No. 4 contender: WWF title | 15— JEFF JARRETT
WCCW light heavyweight champion |

NWA

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— STING
260, Venice Beach, CA | 8— MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY | 12— LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA |
| 2— BARRY WINDHAM
263, Sweetwater, TX | 5— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 9— BAM BAM BIGELOW
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ | 13— RON SIMMONS
260, Perry, GA |
| 3— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 6— STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK | 10— RICK STEINER
248, Detroit, MI | 14— AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL |
| | 7— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 11— EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN | 15— DICK MURDOCH
280, Waxahachie, TX |

AWA

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN | 4— GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN | 8— SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC | 12— TEUHO KHAN
265, Singapore |
| 2— RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec | 5— WAHOO McDANIEL
280, Midland, TX | 9— SOLDAT USTINOV
265, Moscow, Russia | 13— BRICKHOUSE BROWN
225, Winter Haven, FL |
| 3— KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX | 6— COL. DeBEERS
248, Cape Town, South Africa | 10— JEFF JARRETT
200, Hendersonville, TN | 14— DUTCH MANTEL
224, Oil Trough, TX |
| | 7— MANNY FERNANDEZ
245, El Paso, TX | 11— MANDO GUERRERO
225, Mexico City, Mexico | 15— TATSUMI FUJINAMI
231, Tokyo, Japan |

WWF

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 4— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 8— BIG BOSSMAN
348, Cobb County, GA | 12— BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
273, San Francisco, CA |
| 2— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY | 5— KING HAKU
270, Tonga | 9— BAD NEWS BROWN
280, New York, NY | 13— DINO BRAVO
246, Montreal, Quebec |
| 3— ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 6— TED DIBIASE
247, Omaha, NE | 10— JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA | 14— RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN |
| | 7— THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN | 11— HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY | 15— RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular | 4— HACKSAW DUGGAN
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 8— JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular | 12— SGT. SLAUGHTER
Last month: unrated |
| 2— HULK HOGAN
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 5— LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular | 9— KERRY VON ERICH
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular | 13— STEVE DISALVO
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular |
| 3— STING
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 6— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular | 10— JAKE ROBERTS
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular | 14— RICK STEINER
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— DUSTY RHODES
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular | 11— NIKITA KOLOFF
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular | 15— HERCULES HERNANDEZ
Last month: unrated |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1— ANDRE THE GIANT
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 4— BARRY WINDHAM
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 8— KEVIN SULLIVAN
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated | 12— MANNY FERNANDEZ
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 5— TED DIBIASE
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 9— COL. DeBEERS
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated | 13— DINO BRAVO
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated |
| 3— BIG BOSSMAN
Last month: unrated | 6— RICK RUDE
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated | 10— RONNIE GARVIN
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated | 14— KEN WAYNE
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— THE HONKY TONK MAN
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated | 11— RON BASS
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated | 15— ICEMAN PARSONS
Last month: unrated |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1— THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
NWA World tag team champions | 6— THE FANTASTICS
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title | 11— THE BRITISH BULLDOGS
No. 5 contenders: WWF tag team title |
| 2— DEMOLITION
WWF World tag team champions | 7— THE ROUGEAU BROTHERS
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title | 12— MICHAEL HAYES & STEVE COX
No. 1 contenders: World Class tag team title |
| 3— THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title | 8— THE HART FOUNDATION
No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title | 13— CHRIS BENOIT & LANCE IDOL
Stampede International tag team champions |
| 4— PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND
AWA World tag team champions | 9— THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM
World Class & Texas tag team champions | 14— THE RPMs
No. 1 contenders: CWA tag team title |
| 5— THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title | 10— THE WARLORD & THE BARBARIAN
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title | 15— JERRY STUBBS & TONY ANTHONY
Continental tag team champions |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended October 27, 1988

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION:

CHAVO GUERRERO

(September 23, 1988; from Jack Armstrong; Lancaster, CA)

ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

PETER MAIVIA JR. & MANDO GUERRERO

(September 24, 1988; from the Lords of Discipline; Victorville, CA)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

SHINICHI NAKANO & SHUNJI KAKANO

(September 9, 1988; from Takashi Kamada & Sampson Fuyuki; Chiba, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(April 14, 1988; from Bruiser Brody; Sendai, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU

(July 31, 1988; from Stan Hansen & Terry Gordy; Hakodate, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: STAN HANSEN

(July 27, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu; Nagano, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Chigusa Nagayo)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIKA KOMATSU

(July 10, 1988; from Yumi Ogura; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MIKA KOMATSU & YUMI OGURA

(August 25, 1988; from Yumiko Hotta & Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Kawasaki, Japan)

AWA TV CHAMPION: RON GARVIN

(September 17, 1988; from Greg Gagne; Nashville, TN)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI

(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Candi Devine; Las Vegas, NV)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(May 9, 1988; from Curt Hennig; Memphis, TN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND

(March 19, 1988; from The Midnight Rockers; Las Vegas, NV)

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: JOHNNY SMITH

(June 24, 1988; from Chris Benoit; Calgary, Alberta)

* CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOM PRICHARD

(October 3, 1988; tournament final over Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)

CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JERRY STUBBS & TONY ANTHONY

(by CWF officials' decision)

CONTINENTAL U.S. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KEN WAYNE

(August 8, 1988; from Dan Davis; Birmingham, AL)

CWA CHAMPION: PHIL HICKERSON

(July 10, 1988; from Max Pain; Memphis, TN)

* CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GARY YOUNG & CACTUS JACK

(October 23, 1988; tournament final over Bill Dundee & Todd Morton; Memphis, TN)

FLORIDA CHAMPION: RICK STEINER

(by NWA officials' decision)

FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: DICK SLATER

(September 13, 1988; from Dan Spivey; Tampa, FL)

FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JOHNNY ACE & THE TERMINATOR

(September 20, 1988; from Mike Graham & Steve Keirn; Tampa, FL)

IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI

(June 24, 1988; over Riki Choshu; Osaka, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MASA SAITO & RIKI CHOSHU

(June 10, 1988; from Tatsumi Fujinami & Kengo Kimura; Hiroshima, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHIRO KOSHINAKA

(June 24, 1988; from Owen Hart; Osaka, Japan)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

DUSTY RHODES & THE ROAD WARRIORS

(July 9, 1988; over Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, & Arn Anderson; Chicago)

NWA TV CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO

(January 26, 1988; from Nikita Koloff; Raleigh, NC)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(November 26, 1987; from Ronnie Garvin; Chicago)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

(September 10, 1988; from Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard; Philadelphia)

NATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JULES STRONGBOW

(by NWF officials' decision)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI

(October 15, 1988; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

STEVE DOLL & SCOTT PETERSON

(September 20, 1988; from Buddy Rose & The Avalanche; Portland, OR)

PWF CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 27, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu; Nagano, Japan)

PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU

(August 30, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu & Ashura Hara; Osaka, Japan)

STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: MAKHAN SINGH

(May 6, 1988; from Owen Hart; Calgary, Alberta)

* STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

LANCE IDOL & CHRIS BENOIT

(October 7, 1988; from Jerry Morrow & Cuban Assassin; Calgary, Alberta)

U.S. CHAMPION: BARRY WINDHAM

(May 13, 1988; tournament final over Nikita Koloff; Houston)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(last held by The Midnight Express)

WESTERN STATES CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(January 24, 1988; from Barry Windham; Uniondale, NY)

* WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(October 23, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; Memphis, TN)

* WORLD CLASS LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT

(October 15, 1988; from Eric Embry; Dallas)

WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS:

KERRY VON ERICH, KEVIN VON ERICH, & MICHAEL HAYES

(July 8, 1988; from Iceman Parsons, Kamala, & Buddy Roberts; Dallas)

* WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM

(October 17, 1988; from Michael Hayes & Steve Cox; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: ICEMAN PARSONS

(August 5, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; substituting for Kevin Von Erich; Dallas)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM

(September 12, 1988; from Jimmy Jack Funk & John Tatum; Ft. Worth, TX)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: TNT

(September 17, 1988; from Buddy Landell; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

* WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MIGUEL PEREZ JR. & HURRICANE CASTILLO JR.

(October 15, 1988; from Bobby Jagers & Dan Kroffat; Bayamon; Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE INVADER III

(April 23, 1988; from Tony Falk; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

(January 30, 1988; from Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA

(August 6, 1988; from Super Black Ninja; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RON & CHICKY STARR

(October 16, 1988; from Bart & Brad Batten; Aguadilla, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Hercules Ayala)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(August 29, 1988; from The Honky Tonk Man; New York)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE

(March 27, 1988; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION

(March 27, 1988; from Rick Martel & Tito Santana; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHERRI MARTEL

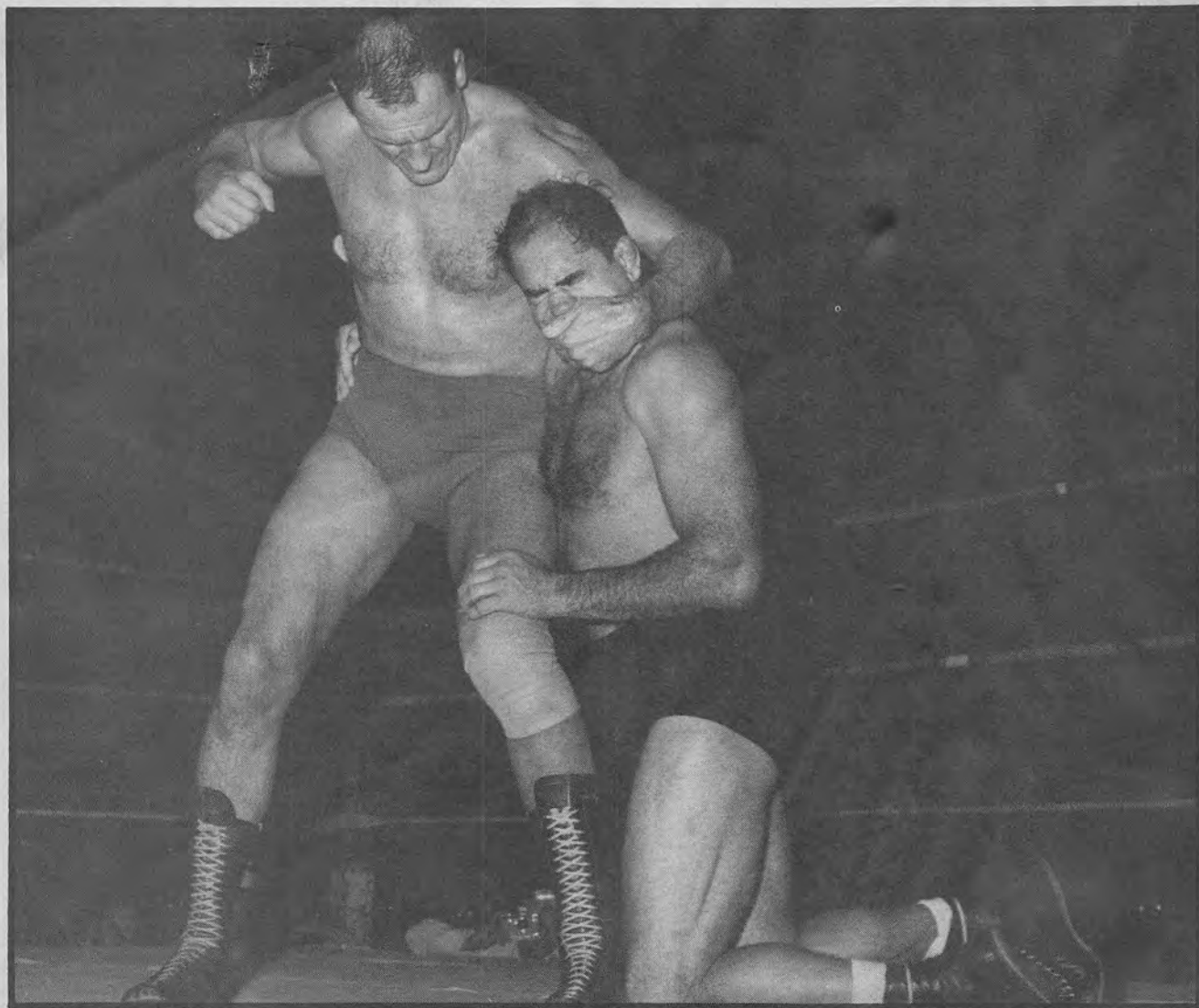
(July 24, 1987; from The Fabulous Moolah; Houston)

WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(June 8, 1988; from The Jumping Bomb Angels; Omiya City, Japan)

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